

DOCTRINES AND DISCIPLINE OF
THE METHODIST CHURCH

DOCTRINES
AND
DISCIPLINE
OF
The Methodist Church
1956

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The book editor, the secretary of the General Conference, and the publisher are charged with editing the *Discipline*. The editors in the exercise of their judgment shall have authority to make such changes in phraseology as may be necessary to harmonize legislation without changing its substance.

—*Journal of the General Conference, 1956*

BISHOP NOLAN B. HARMON

ACTING BOOK EDITOR

LUD H. ESTES

SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

LOVICK PIERCE

PUBLISHER

J. EDGAR WASHABAUGH

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

GORDON B. DUNCAN

ASSISTANT BOOK EDITOR

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CONTENTS

The numbers refer to paragraphs (§§), which are arranged according to the following plan:

1- 99	The Constitution, Articles of Religion, and General Rules
101- 299	The Local Church
301- 499	The Ministry
501- 699	The Conferences
701- 899	Temporal Economy
901-1099	Judicial Administration
1101-1599	Administrative Agencies
1601-1699	Pensions and Permanent Funds
1701-1899	Boundaries
1901-1999	Worship and Ritual
2001-2199	Appendix

UNUSED PARAGRAPH NUMBERS ARE RESERVED FOR FUTURE ENACTMENTS

EPISCOPAL GREETINGS	page 1
HISTORICAL STATEMENT	page 3
DECLARATION OF UNION	page 7

PART I

THE CONSTITUTION

¶¶ 1-98

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH	¶¶ 1-46
THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION	¶¶ 61-87
THE GENERAL RULES	¶¶ 91-98

PART II

THE LOCAL CHURCH

¶¶ 101-296

I. THE PASTORAL CHARGE	¶¶ 101-104
II. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	¶¶ 105-132
III. THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE	¶¶ 137-155
IV. CHURCH PROPERTY	¶¶ 156-194
V. THE CHURCH CONFERENCE	¶¶ 196-200
VI. THE OFFICIAL BOARD	¶¶ 206-296

PART III

THE MINISTRY

¶¶ 301-446

I. THE CALL TO PREACH	¶¶ 301-303
II. THE LOCAL MINISTRY	¶¶ 304-320

CONTENTS

III. TRAVELING PREACHERS	¶¶ 321-385
IV. MINISTERIAL ORDERS	¶¶ 391-405
V. MINISTERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES	¶¶ 411-415
VI. EPISCOPACY	¶¶ 421-446

PART IV THE CONFERENCES

¶¶ 501-699

I. THE GENERAL CONFERENCE	¶¶ 501-512
II. THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE	¶¶ 516-535
III. THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE	¶¶ 541-582
IV. PROVISIONAL CENTRAL CONFERENCES	¶¶ 586-593
V. AFFILIATED AUTONOMOUS CHURCHES	¶¶ 600-605
VI. PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES	¶¶ 606-612
VII. MISSIONS	¶¶ 615-616
VIII. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE	¶¶ 621-680
IX. THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE	¶¶ 686-696

PART V TEMPORAL ECONOMY

¶¶ 701-831

I. CHURCH PROPERTY	¶¶ 701-730
II. CHURCH FINANCE	¶¶ 731-831

PART VI JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

¶¶ 901-1065

I. THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL	¶¶ 901-918
II. THE TRIAL OF A BISHOP OR TRAVELING PREACHER	¶¶ 921-956
III. INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF OTHER THAN TRAVELING PREACHERS	¶¶ 957-977
IV. THE DEPRIVATION AND RESTORATION OF CRE- DENTIALS	¶¶ 991-996
V. GENERAL DIRECTIONS	¶¶ 1001-1065

PART VII ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

¶¶ 1101-1599

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS	¶¶ 1101-1108
II. CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL	¶¶ 1111-1115
III. COUNCIL ON WORLD SERVICE AND FINANCE	¶¶ 1116-1120
IV. THE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE	¶¶ 1121-1157
V. INTERBOARD COMMISSION ON THE LOCAL CHURCH	¶¶ 1160-1163
VI. BOARD OF MISSIONS	¶¶ 1166-1308
Division of World Missions	¶¶ 1193-1207
Division of National Missions	¶¶ 1208-1239
Woman's Division of Christian Service	¶¶ 1240-1258

CONTENTS

Joint Section of Education and Cultivation	¶¶ 1268-1277
VII. METHODIST COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS RELIEF	¶¶ 1311-1315
VIII. BOARD OF EDUCATION	¶¶ 1324-1455
Division of Educational Institutions	¶¶ 1351-1376
Schools of Theology	¶¶ 1378-1380
University Senate	¶¶ 1382-1391
Division of the Local Church	¶¶ 1396-1410
Editorial Division	¶¶ 1421-1427
IX. BOARD OF EVANGELISM	¶¶ 1464-1485
X. BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES	¶¶ 1490-1515
XI. INTERBOARD COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN SO- CIAL RELATIONS	¶¶ 1516-1519
XII. BOARD OF TEMPERANCE	¶¶ 1521-1535
XIII. BOARD OF WORLD PEACE	¶¶ 1536-1544
XIV. BOARD OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS	¶¶ 1546-1550
XV. BOARD OF HOSPITALS AND HOMES	¶¶ 1551-1567
XVI. COMMISSION ON WORSHIP	¶¶ 1568-1570
XVII. COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS	¶¶ 1571-1572
XVIII. INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON CULTIVATION, PROMOTION, AND PUBLICATION	¶¶ 1576-1579
XIX. COMMISSION ON PROMOTION AND CULTIVATION	¶ 1580
XX. TELEVISION, RADIO, AND FILM COMMISSION	¶¶ 1581-1583
XXI. COMMISSION ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND METHODIST INFORMATION	¶¶ 1586-1590
XXII. ASSOCIATION OF METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETIES	¶¶ 1591-1593
XXIII. COUNCIL OF SECRETARIES	¶ 1595
XXIV. INTERDENOMINATIONAL AGENCIES	¶¶ 1596-1599

PART VIII PENSIONS AND PERMANENT FUNDS

¶¶ 1601-1665

I. GENERAL BOARD OF PENSIONS	¶¶ 1601-1606
II. PERMANENT FUNDS	¶¶ 1607-1609
III. ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZATIONS	¶¶ 1610-1612
IV. PENSION CODE	¶¶ 1613-1637
V. MINISTERS RESERVE PENSION FUND	¶¶ 1642-1657
VI. LAY EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND	¶¶ 1658-1659
VII. EPISCOPAL PENSIONS	¶ 1661
VIII. COMMITTEE ON PENSION LEGISLATION	¶ 1665

PART IX BOUNDARIES

¶¶ 1701-1855

I. JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES	¶ 1701
II. ANNUAL CONFERENCES, PROVISIONAL AN- NUAL CONFERENCES, AND MISSIONS WITHIN THE JURISDICTIONS	¶¶ 1714-1851

CONTENTS

III. ANNUAL CONFERENCES, PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES, AND MISSIONS OVERSEAS	¶¶ 1860-1872
IV. CENTRAL CONFERENCES	¶¶ 1874-1882
V. OTHER WORK OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES	¶¶ 1884-1885

PART X WORSHIP AND RITUAL

¶¶ 1901-1940	
I. ORDERS OF WORSHIP	¶¶ 1901-1906
II. THE RITUAL	¶¶ 1908-1940
The Lord's Supper	¶¶ 1908-1909
Baptism	¶¶ 1910-1912
Reception of Members	¶¶ 1913-1916
Matrimony	¶ 1917
Burial of the Dead	¶¶ 1918-1919
Ordination, Consecration, etc.	¶¶ 1920-1929
Dedication of Buildings, etc.	¶¶ 1930-1940

APPENDIX

¶¶ 2001-2199	
I. JUDICIAL COUNCIL: RULES AND DIGESTS OF DECISIONS	¶¶ 2001-2002
II. ENABLING ACTS	¶¶ 2003-2009
III. QUADRENNIAL COMMISSIONS	¶¶ 2011-2014
IV. THE QUADRENNIAL PROGRAM	¶¶ 2016-2019
V. THE METHODIST SOCIAL CREED	¶ 2020
VI. MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS	¶¶ 2021-2032
VII. COURSES OF STUDY FOR MINISTERIAL TRAINING	¶¶ 2041-2048
VIII. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS	¶ 2100
IX. THE DIRECTORY	¶¶ 2101-2167
X. GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH	¶ 2199

INDEX	page 781
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EPISCOPAL GREETINGS

THE METHODIST DISCIPLINE is a growth rather than a purposive creation. The founders of Methodism did not work with a set plan, as to details. They dealt with conditions as these arose. The "class meeting," a distinctive feature of the movement, began as an instrument for the collection of funds. It soon revealed its fitness for religious nurture and took that work as its chief aim. The use of laymen as preachers came at first against Wesley's will, but it was continued because it seemed to be the one effective way of dealing with actual situations. Open-air preaching, always admitted as a "cross" by Mr. Wesley, came partly because the churches were closed to Methodist preachers, and partly because the people who most needed to be helped would not come to regular services in the sanctuaries. Even conferences gained their origin from the actual need of bringing workers together for consultation and inspiration.

This process of growth showed itself clearly as the church increased. Conference work was carried on by the asking of what were called "Minute Questions." These were not perfunctory and artificial. They dealt with the effective ways of presenting the deeper phases and duties of religious experience. As new forms of work were developed, new questions were added to the conference list.

In such a process of adjustment, the DISCIPLINE became a record of the successive stages of spiritual insight attained by Methodists under the grace of Christ. We have therefore expected that the DISCIPLINE would be administered, not merely as a legal document, but as a revelation of the Holy Spirit working in and through our people. We reverently insist that a fundamental aim of Methodism is to make her organization an instrument for the development of spiritual life. We do not regard the machinery as sacred in life itself, but we do regard as very sacred the souls for whom the church lives and works.

EPISCOPAL GREETINGS

We do now express the faith and hope that the prayerful observance of the spiritual intent of the DISCIPLINE may be to the people called Methodists a veritable means of grace.

For this reason we wish that this publication might be found in every Methodist home, and the more so because it contains the Articles of Religion which are held more or less by all the Reformed churches of the world. Thus we remain your very affectionate brethren and pastors, who earnestly commend you to Christ.

THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

W. EARL LADDEN

President

W. ANGIE SMITH

Vice-President

ROY H. SHORT

Secretary

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

THE Methodist Church is a church of Christ in which "the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered." This church is a great Protestant body, though it did not come directly out of the Reformation but had its origin within the Church of England. Its founder was John Wesley, a clergyman of that church, as was his father before him. His mother, Susanna Wesley, was a woman of zeal, devotion, and strength of character who was perhaps the greatest single human influence in Wesley's life.

Nurtured in this devout home, educated at Oxford University, the young John Wesley, like a second Paul, sought in vain for religious satisfaction by the strict observance of the rules of religion and the ordinances of the church. The turning point in his life came when, at a prayer meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, on May 24, 1738, he learned what Paul had discovered, that it is not by rules and laws, nor by our own efforts at self-perfection, but by faith in God's mercy as it comes to us in Christ, that man may enter upon life and peace.

The gospel which Wesley thus found for himself he began to proclaim to others, first to companions who sought his counsel, including his brother Charles, then in widening circles that took him throughout the British Isles. His message had a double emphasis, which has remained with Methodism to this day. First was the gospel of God's grace, offered to all men and equal to every human need. Second was the moral ideal which this gospel presents to men. The Bible, he declared, knows no salvation which is not salvation from sin. He called men to holiness of life, and this holiness, he insisted, is "social holiness," the love and service of their fellow men. Methodism meant "Christianity in earnest." The General Rules which are still found in our *Discipline* are the directions which Wesley gave to his followers to enable them to test the

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

sincerity of their purpose and to guide them in this life.

Wesley did not plan to found a new church. In his work he simply followed, like Paul, the clear call of God, first to preach the gospel to the needy who were not being reached by the Established Church and its clergy, second to take care of those who were won to the Christian life. Step by step he was led on until Methodism became a great and transforming movement in the life of England. He gathered his people in groups, in classes and societies. He appointed leaders. He found men who were ready to carry the gospel to the masses, speaking on the streets, in the open fields, and in private homes. These men were not ordained ministers but lay preachers, or "local preachers," as they were called. He appointed these men, assigned them to various fields of labor, and supervised their work. Once a year he called them together for a conference, just as Methodist preachers meet in their Annual Conference sessions today.

Wesley thus united in extraordinary fashion three notable activities, in all of which he excelled. One was evangelism; "The world is my parish," he declared. His preachers went to the people; they did not wait for the people to come to them, and he himself knew the highways and byways of England as did no other man of his day. The second was organization and administration, by which he conserved the fruits of this preaching and extended its influence. The third was his appreciation of education and his use of the printed page. He made the press a servant of the Church and was the father of the mass circulation of inexpensive books, pamphlets, and periodicals.

From England Methodism spread to Ireland and then to America. In 1766 Philip Embury, a lay preacher from Ireland, began to preach in the city of New York. At about the same time Robert Strawbridge, another lay preacher from Ireland, settled in Frederick County, Maryland, and began the work there. In 1769 Wesley sent Richard Boardman and Joseph Pilmore to America, and two years later Francis Asbury, who became the great leader of America Methodism.

Methodism was especially adapted to American life.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

These itinerant preachers served the people under conditions where a settled ministry was not feasible. They sought out the scattered homes, followed the tide of migration as it moved west, preached the gospel, organized societies, established "preaching places," and formed these into "circuits." Thus by the close of the American Revolution the Methodists numbered some fifteen thousand members and eighty preachers.

In the beginning Wesley had thought of his fellows not as constituting a church but simply as forming so many societies. The preachers were not ordained, and the members were supposed to receive the sacraments in the Anglican Church. But the Anglican clergy in America were few and far between. The Revolution had severed America from England, and Methodism to all intents and purposes had become an independent church. Wesley responded to appeals for help from America by asking the Bishop of London to ordain some of his preachers. Failing in this, he himself ordained two men and set aside Dr. Thomas Coke, who was a presbyter of the Church of England, to be a superintendent, "to preside over the flock of Christ" in America. Coke was directed to ordain Francis Asbury as a second superintendent.

At the Christmas Conference, which met in Baltimore December 24, 1784, some sixty preachers, with Dr. Coke and his companions, organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Wesley had sent over *The Sunday Service*, a simplified form of the English *Book of Common Prayer*, with the Articles of Religion reduced in number. This book they adopted, adding to the articles one which recognized the independence of the new nation.

Our present Articles of Religion come from this book and unite us with the historic faith of Christendom. Our Ritual, too, though it has been modified, has this as its source. However, the forms for public worship taken from the *Book of Common Prayer* were not adapted to the freer religious life of American Methodism and never entered into common use. Instead, Methodism created a book of its own, its *Discipline*. This contains today the Articles of Religion, Wesley's General Rules, the Ritual and other forms of worship, and a large section which

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

deals with the ministry, the various church organizations, and the rules governing the life and work of the church.

In the history of Methodism two notable divisions occurred. In 1828 a group of earnest and godly persons, largely moved by an insistence on lay representation, separated and became the Methodist Protestant Church. In 1844 there was another division, the cause being construed by some as the question of slavery, by others as a constitutional issue over the powers of the General Conference versus the episcopacy. After years of negotiation a Plan of Union was agreed upon; and on May 10, 1939, The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church united to form The Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church believes today, as Methodism has from the first, that the only infallible proof of a true church of Christ is its ability to seek and to save the lost, to disseminate the Pentecostal spirit and life, to spread scriptural holiness, and to transform all peoples and nations through the gospel of Christ. The sole object of the rules, regulations, and usages of The Methodist Church is to aid the church in fulfilling its divine mission. United Methodism thanks God for the new life and strength which have come with reunion, while realizing the new obligations which this brings. At the same time it rejoices in the fact that it is a part of the one Church of our Lord and shares in a common task. Its spirit is still expressed in Wesley's words: "I desire to have a league, offensive and defensive, with every soldier of Christ. We have not only one faith, one hope, one Lord, but are directly engaged in one warfare."

THE DECLARATION OF UNION

WHEREAS, The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church did through their respective General Conferences appoint Commissions on Interdenominational Relations and Church Union; and

WHEREAS, These Commissions acting jointly did produce, propose, and present to the three Churches a Plan of Union; and

WHEREAS, These three Churches, each acting separately for and in its own behalf, did by more than the constitutional majorities endorse and adopt this Plan of Union, in accord with their respective constitutions and disciplines, and did effect the full consummation of union in accordance with the Plan of Union; and

WHEREAS, These three Churches in adopting this Plan of Union did authorize and provide for a Uniting Conference with certain powers and duties as therein set forth; and

WHEREAS, The Uniting Conference duly authorized and legally chosen in accordance with the Plan of Union is now in session in the city of Kansas City, Missouri:

Now, THEREFORE, We, the members of the Uniting Conference, the legal and authorized representatives of The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church, in session here assembled on this the 10th day of May, 1939, do solemnly in the presence of God and before all the world make and publish the following Declarations of fact and principle:

I

The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church are and shall be one United Church.

THE DECLARATION OF UNION

II

The Plan of Union as adopted is and shall be the constitution of this United Church, and of its three constituent bodies.

III

The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church had their common origin in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America in 1784, A.D., and have ever held, adhered to and preserved a common belief, spirit and purpose, as expressed in their common Articles of Religion.

IV

The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church, in adopting the name "The Methodist Church" for the United Church, do not and will not surrender any right, interest or title in and to these respective names, which, by long and honored use and association, have become dear to the ministry and membership of the three uniting Churches and have become enshrined in their history and records.

V

The Methodist Church is the ecclesiastical and lawful successor of the three uniting Churches, in and through which the three Churches as one United Church shall continue to live and have their existence, continue their institutions, and hold and enjoy their property, exercise and perform their several trusts under and in accord with the Plan of Union and Discipline of the United Church; and such trusts or corporate bodies as exist in the constituent Churches shall be continued as long as legally necessary.

VI

To The Methodist Church thus established we do now solemnly declare our allegiance, and upon all its life and service we do reverently invoke the blessing of Almighty God. Amen.

[Unanimously adopted by the Uniting Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, May 10, 1939.]

PART I

THE CONSTITUTION THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION THE GENERAL RULES

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

Plan of Union of The Methodist Episcopal Church,
The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, The
Methodist Protestant Church

TRANSMITTAL

WE, the Commission on Interdenominational Relations and Church Union of The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church, holding that these churches are essentially one in origin, in belief, in spirit, and in purpose, and desiring that this essential unity be made actual in organization and administration in the United States of America and throughout the world, do hereby propose and transmit to our respective General Conferences the following Plan of Union and recommend to the three churches its adoption by the processes which they respectively require.

DIVISION ONE

¶ 1. *Article I. Declaration of Union.*—The Methodist Episcopal Church, The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and The Methodist Protestant Church shall be united in one church.

¶ 2. *Art. II. Name.*—The name of the church shall be The Methodist Church.

¶ 3. *Art. III. Articles of Religion.*—The Articles of Religion shall be those historically held in common by the three uniting churches. (See ¶¶ 61-85.)

DIVISION TWO. CONFERENCES

¶ 4. 1. There shall be a General Conference for the entire church with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.¹

2. There shall be Jurisdictional Conferences for the church in the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.²

3. There shall be Central Conferences for the church outside the United States of America, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.

4. There shall be Annual Conferences as the fundamental bodies in the church, with such powers, duties, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth.

Section I. General Conference

¶ 5. *Article I.*—The General Conference shall be composed of not less than 600 nor more than 800³ delegates, one half of whom shall be ministers and one half lay members, to be elected by the Annual Conferences.

¶ 6. *Art. II.*—The General Conference shall meet in the month of April or May once in four years, beginning with such year and at such place as shall be fixed by the Uniting Conference, and thereafter at such time and in such place as shall be determined by the General Conference or by its duly authorized committees.

¶ 7. *Art. III.*—The General Conference shall fix the ratio of representation in the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences from the Annual Conferences and the *Provisional Annual Conferences*, with the total ministerial membership in the Annual Conference or the *Provisional Annual Conference* as a basis; provided that each Annual Conference or *Provisional Annual Confer-*

¹ See Judicial Council Decision 7.

² See Judicial Council Decision 128.

³ The General Conference of 1956 proposed and referred to the members of the several Annual Conferences as Amendment XI the replacement of "800" by "900." See also the footnote to ¶ 501.

*ence, except for the Provisional Annual Conferences of a Central Conference or a Provisional Central Conference,*⁴ shall be entitled to at least one ministerial and one lay delegate in the General Conference and also in the Jurisdictional or Central Conference.

¶ 8. *Art. IV.*—The General Conference shall have full legislative power over all matters distinctively connectional,⁵ and in the exercise of said powers shall have authority as follows:

1. To define and fix the conditions, privileges, and duties of church membership.

2. To define and fix the qualifications and duties of elders, deacons, supply preachers, local preachers, exhorters,⁶ and deaconesses.⁷

3. To define and fix the powers and duties of Annual Conferences, Mission Conferences,⁸ and Missions, and of District, Quarterly, and Church Conferences.⁹

4. To provide for the organization, promotion, and administration of the work of the church outside the United States of America.¹⁰

5. To define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy, to adopt a plan for the support of the bishops, to provide a uniform rule for their superannuation, and to provide for the discontinuance of a bishop because of inefficiency or unacceptability.¹¹

6. To provide and revise the Hymnal and Ritual of the church and to regulate all matters relating to the form and mode of worship, subject to the limitations of the first Restrictive Rule.

7. To provide a judicial system and a method of judicial procedure for the church, except as herein otherwise prescribed.

8. To initiate and to direct all connectional enterprises

⁴ Italics indicate Amendment VII, announced as effective in 1956.

⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 7, 83-85, 96.

⁶ Exhorters in the body of the Discipline are called lay speakers.

⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 7, 58.

⁸ Mission Conferences in the body of the Discipline are called Provisional Annual Conferences.

⁹ See Judicial Council Decisions 7, 74, 105.

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 84.

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 35, 68, 83, 84.

of the church, such as publishing, evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent, and to provide boards for their promotion and administration.

9. To determine and provide for raising the funds necessary to carry on the connectional work of the church.¹²

10. To fix a uniform basis upon which bishops shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences and to determine the number of bishops that may be elected by Central Conferences.¹³

11. To select its presiding officers from the bishops, through a committee; provided that the bishops shall select from their own number the president of the opening session.¹⁴

12. To change the number and the boundaries of Jurisdictional Conferences upon the consent of a majority of the Annual Conferences in each Jurisdictional Conference involved.¹⁵

13. To establish such commissions for the general work of the church as may be deemed advisable.

14. To enact such other legislation as may be necessary, subject to the limitations and restrictions of the Constitution of the church.¹⁶

Sec. II. Restrictive Rules

¶ 9. 1. The General Conference shall not revoke, alter, or change our Articles of Religion, or establish any new standards or rules of doctrine contrary to our present existing and established standards of doctrine.¹⁷

2. The General Conference shall not change or alter any part or rule of our government so as to do away episcopacy, or destroy the plan of our itinerant general superintendency.

3. The General Conference shall not do away the privileges of our ministers or preachers of trial by a committee and of an appeal; neither shall it do away the priv-

¹² See Judicial Council Decision 30.

¹³ See Judicial Council Decision 84.

¹⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 126.

¹⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 32, 56.

¹⁶ See Judicial Council Decisions 58, 84.

¹⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 86.

ileges of our members of trial before the church, or by a committee, and of an appeal.

4. The General Conference shall not revoke or change the General Rules of the United Societies.

5. The General Conference shall not appropriate the produce of the Publishing House, the Book Concern, or the Chartered Fund to any purpose other than for the benefit of the traveling, supernumerary, superannuated, and worn-out preachers, their wives, widows, and children.

Sec. III. Amendments

¶ 10. 1. Amendments to the Constitution may originate in either the General Conference or an Annual Conference.

2. Amendments to the Constitution shall be made upon a two-thirds majority of the General Conference present and voting and a two-thirds majority of all the members of the several Annual Conferences present and voting, except in the case of the first Restrictive Rule, which shall require a three-fourths majority of all the members of the Annual Conferences present and voting. The vote, after being completed, shall be canvassed by the Council of Bishops, and the amendment voted upon shall become effective upon their announcement of its having received the required majority.

3. A Jurisdictional Conference may by a majority vote propose changes in the Constitution of the church, and such proposed changes shall be submitted to the next General Conference. If the General Conference adopt the measure by a two-thirds vote, it shall be submitted to the Annual Conferences according to the provision for amendments.

Sec. IV. Jurisdictional Conferences

¶ 11. Article I.—The Jurisdictional Conferences shall be composed of as many representatives from the Annual Conferences as shall be determined by a uniform basis established by the General Conference.

¶ 12. Art. II.—All Jurisdictional Conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within

the limits fixed by the Constitution. The ratio of representation of the Annual Conferences in the General Conference shall be the same for all Jurisdictional Conferences.

¶ 13. *Art. III.*—The General Conference shall fix the basis of representation in the Jurisdictional Conferences; provided that the Jurisdictional Conferences shall be composed of an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, the ministerial to be elected by the ministerial members of the Annual Conferences and the *Provisional Annual Conferences*¹⁸ and the lay delegates by the lay members.

¶ 14. *Art. IV.*—Each Jurisdictional Conference shall meet within the twelve months succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such time and place as shall have been determined by the preceding Jurisdictional Conference, or by its properly constituted committee. The first meeting of each Jurisdictional Conference after the General Conference shall be called by the Council of Bishops at a date fixed by them and at a place selected by a committee on entertainment appointed by them.

¶ 15. *Art. V.*—The Jurisdictional Conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:¹⁹

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests of the church, and to provide for interests and institutions within their boundaries.²⁰

2. To elect bishops and to co-operate in carrying out such plans for their support as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute Jurisdictional Conference boards as auxiliary to the general boards of the church as the need may appear, and to choose their representatives on the general boards in such manner as the General Conference may determine.

4. To determine the boundaries of their Annual Conferences; provided that there shall be no Annual Con-

¹⁸ Italics indicate Amendment IV, announced as effective in 1952. See Judicial Council Decision 5.

¹⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 84.

²⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 67.

ference with a membership of fewer than fifty ministers in full connection, except by the consent of the General Conference.²¹

5. To make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the church within the jurisdiction, subject to such powers as have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.²²

6. To appoint a Committee on Appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that jurisdiction from the decision of a trial committee.

Sec. V. Central Conferences

¶ 16. *Article I.*—There shall be Central Conferences for the work of the church outside the United States of America with such duties, powers, and privileges as are hereinafter set forth. The number and boundaries of the Central Conferences shall be determined by the Uniting Conference. Subsequently the General Conference shall have authority to change the number and boundaries of Central Conferences. The Central Conferences shall have the duties, powers, and privileges hereinafter set forth.

¶ 17. *Art. II.*—The Central Conferences shall be composed of as many delegates as shall be determined by a basis established by the General Conference. The delegates shall be ministerial and lay in equal numbers, the ministerial delegates to be elected by the ministerial members and lay delegates to be elected by the lay members of the Annual Conferences or the *Provisional Annual Conferences*.²³

¶ 18. *Art. III.*—The Central Conferences shall meet within the year succeeding the meeting of the General Conference at such times and places as shall have been determined by the preceding respective Central Conferences or by commissions appointed by them, or by the General Conference. The date and place of the first meeting succeeding the first General Conference shall be fixed by the bishops of the respective Central Conferences, or

²¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 28, 85.

²² See Judicial Council Decision 67.

²³ Italics indicate Amendment II, announced as effective in 1944. See Judicial Council Decision 6.

in such manner as shall be determined by the General Conference.

¶ 19. *Art. IV.*—The Central Conferences shall have the following powers and duties and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference:

1. To promote the evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent interests and institutions of the church within their own boundaries.

2. To elect the bishops for the respective Central Conferences in number as may be determined from time to time, upon a basis fixed by the General Conference, and to co-operate in carrying out such plans for the support of their bishops as may be determined by the General Conference.

3. To establish and constitute such Central Conference boards as may be required and to elect their administrative officers.²⁴

4. To determine the boundaries of the Annual Conferences within their respective areas.

5. To make such rules and regulations for the administration of the work within their boundaries as the conditions in the respective areas may require, subject to the powers that have been or shall be vested in the General Conference.²⁵

6. To appoint a Committee on Appeals to hear and determine the appeal of a traveling preacher of that Central Conference from the decision of a Committee on Trial.

Sec. VI. Episcopal Administration in Central Conferences

¶ 20. 1. The bishops of the Central Conferences shall be elected and inducted into office by their respective Central Conferences.

2. The bishops of the Central Conferences shall have membership in the Council of Bishops with vote.²⁶

3. The bishops of the Central Conferences shall preside

²⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 69.

²⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 69, 121.

²⁶ Amendment VI, announced as effective in 1956, deleted the words "limited to matters relating to their respective Central Conferences" following "vote." (The same alteration, proposed as Amendment V by the General Conference of 1948, failed of ratification by the members of the several Annual Conferences during the 1948-52 quadrennium.)

in the sessions of their respective Central Conferences.

4. The bishops of each Central Conference shall arrange the plan of episcopal visitation within their Central Conference.

5. The Council of Bishops may assign one of their number to visit any Central Conference. When so assigned the bishop shall be recognized as an accredited representative of the general church; and when requested by a majority of the bishops of a Central Conference may exercise therein the functions of the episcopacy.

Sec. VII. Annual Conferences

¶ 21. *Article I.*—The Annual Conference shall be composed of all the traveling preachers in full connection with it, together with a lay member elected by each pastoral charge.²⁷ The lay members shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall have been for the four years next preceding their election members of one of the constituent churches forming this union, or of The Methodist Church.²⁸

¶ 22. *Art. II.*—The Annual Conference is the basic body in the church, and as such shall have reserved to it the right to vote on all constitutional amendments, on the election of ministerial and lay delegates to the General and the Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, on all matters relating to the character and conference relations of its ministerial members, and on the ordination of ministers, and such other rights as have not been delegated to the General Conference under the Constitution, with the exception that the lay members may not vote on matters of ordination, character, and conference relations of ministers. It shall discharge such duties and exercise such powers as the General Conference under the Constitution may determine.²⁹

¶ 23. *Art. III.*—The Annual Conference shall elect min-

²⁷ The General Conference of 1956 proposed and referred to the members of the several Annual Conferences as Amendment X the insertion here of the following sentence: "Each pastoral charge served by more than one minister in full connection shall be entitled to two lay members."

²⁸ See Judicial Council Decisions 24, 36, 42, 87, 112, 113, 129.

²⁹ See Judicial Council Decisions 5-7, 38, 42, 43, 67, 72, 74-76, 78, 79, 88, 105, 115, 119, 123, 129.

isterial and lay delegates to the General Conference and to its Jurisdictional or Central Conference in the manner provided in this section. Articles IV and V, at the session preceding the General Conference. The persons first elected up to the number determined by the ratio for representation in the General Conference shall be representatives in that body. Additional delegates shall be elected to complete the number determined by the ratio for representation in the Jurisdictional or Central Conference, who, together with those first elected as above, shall be delegates in the Jurisdictional or Central Conference. The additional delegates to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference shall in the order of their election be the reserve delegates to the General Conference. The Annual Conference shall also elect reserve ministerial and lay delegates to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference as it may deem desirable.³⁰

¶ 24. *Art. IV.*—The ministerial delegates to the General Conference and to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference shall be elected by the ministerial members of the Annual Conference or *Provisional Annual Conference*; provided that such delegates shall have been traveling preachers in the constituent churches forming this union, or in The Methodist Church, for at least four years next preceding their election and are in full connection with the Annual Conference or *Provisional Annual Conference*³¹ electing them when elected and at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences.³²

¶ 25. *Art. V.*—The lay delegates to the General Conference and to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference shall be elected by the lay members of the Annual Conference; provided that such delegates be at least *twenty-one (21)*³³ years of age and shall have been members of the constituent churches forming this union, or of The Methodist Church, for at least four years next pre-

³⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 76.

³¹ Italics indicate Amendment VIII, announced as effective in 1956.

³² See Judicial Council Decisions 1, 76, 88, 124.

³³ Italics indicate Amendment III, announced as effective in 1952, replacing the original "twenty-five (25)."

ceding their election, and are members thereof within the Annual Conference electing them at the time of holding the General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences.³⁴

Sec. VIII. Boundaries

¶ 26. *Article I.*—The Methodist Church in the United States of America shall have Jurisdictional Conferences made up as follows:

Northeastern—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico.

Southeastern—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Cuba.

Central—The Negro Annual Conferences, the Negro Mission Conferences and Missions in the United States of America.³⁵

³⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 76, 124.

³⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 128. The General Conference of 1956 proposed and referred to the members of the several Annual Conferences as Amendment IX the following:

Add at the end of Article I of Division Two, Section VIII (¶ 26):

"*Abolition of the Central Jurisdiction.*—The Central Jurisdiction shall be abolished when all of the Annual Conferences now comprising it have been transferred to other jurisdictions in accordance with the voluntary procedure of Article V of this section. Each remaining bishop of the Central Jurisdiction shall thereupon be transferred to the jurisdiction to which the majority of the membership of his area have been transferred, and the Central Jurisdiction shall then be dissolved."

Add a new article, to be known as Article V of Division Two, Section VIII (to follow ¶ 29):

"*Art. V.*—1. A local church may be transferred from one Annual Conference to another in which it is geographically located upon approval by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in each of the following:

- a) The Quarterly Conference of the local church.
- b) A Church Conference of the local church.
- c) Each of the two Annual Conferences involved.

The vote shall be certified by the secretaries of the specified conferences to the bishops having supervision of the Annual Conferences involved, and upon their announcement of the required majorities the transfer shall immediately be effective.

"2. An Annual Conference may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another upon approval by:

- a) The Annual Conference desiring transfer, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting. The secretary of the conference shall certify the vote to the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction of which the conference has been a part.

North Central—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota.

South Central—Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico.

Western—Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Alaska, Hawaiian Islands.

¶ 27. *Art. II.*—The work of the church outside the United States of America may be formed into Central Conferences, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined by the Uniting Conference, the General Conference having authority subsequently to make changes in the number and boundaries.

¶ 28. *Art. III.*—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the Jurisdictional Conferences may be effected by the General Conference upon the consent of a majority of the Annual Conferences of each of the Jurisdictional Conferences involved.³⁶

¶ 29. *Art. IV.*—Changes in the number, names, and boundaries of the Annual Conferences may be effected

b) The remainder of the jurisdiction from which transfer is to be made, by a two-thirds majority of the total of those present and voting. The vote shall be taken in the other Annual Conferences of the jurisdiction and certified by their secretaries to the College of Bishops, which shall determine whether two thirds of the total vote in the jurisdiction is favorable.

c) The jurisdiction to which transfer is to be made, by a two-thirds majority of the total of those present and voting. The vote shall be taken in the various Annual Conferences of the jurisdiction and certified by their secretaries to the College of Bishops, which shall determine whether two thirds of the total vote in the jurisdiction is favorable.

Upon announcement by the two Colleges of Bishops of the required majorities the transfer shall immediately be effective.

¶ 3. The vote on approval of transfer under either § 1 or § 2 of this article shall be taken by each Annual Conference at its first session after the matter is submitted to it.

¶ 4. Transfers under the provisions of this article shall not be governed or restricted by other provisions of this Constitution relating to changes of boundaries of conferences.

¶ 5. Whenever twenty-five per cent of the local-church membership of the Central Jurisdiction have been transferred by this process to another jurisdiction or jurisdictions, the bishop of the area from which the largest number have been transferred shall be transferred to the jurisdiction which has received the largest number by such transfer, and the representation of the Central Jurisdiction on the boards, agencies, and episcopacy of the church shall thereafter be proportionately reduced.³⁷

³⁶ See Judicial Council Decisions 55, 56, 85.

by the Jurisdictional Conferences in the United States of America and by the Central Conferences outside the United States of America, according to the provisions under the respective powers of the Jurisdictional and the Central Conferences.³⁷

Sec. IX. District Conferences

¶ 30. *Article I.*—There may be organized in an Annual Conference, District Conferences composed of such persons and invested with such powers as the General Conference may determine.

Sec. X. Quarterly Conferences

¶ 31. *Article I.*—There shall be organized in each pastoral charge a Quarterly Conference composed of such persons and invested with such powers as the General Conference shall provide.³⁸

¶ 32. *Art. II.—Election of Church Officers.*—Unless the General Conference shall order otherwise, the officers of the church or churches constituting a pastoral charge shall be elected by the Quarterly Conference or by the members of said church or churches at a meeting called for that purpose, as may be arranged by the Quarterly Conference, unless the election is otherwise required by local church charters or state laws.

Sec. XI. Church Conferences

¶ 33. There may be a Church Conference in each church, having such powers and duties as the General Conference may prescribe.

DIVISION THREE. EPISCOPACY

¶ 34. *Article I.*—There shall be an episcopacy in The Methodist Church of like plan, powers, privileges, and duties as now exist in The Methodist Episcopal Church and The Methodist Episcopal Church, South.³⁹

¶ 35. *Art. II.*—The bishops shall be elected by the

³⁷ See Judicial Council Decisions 28, 85.

³⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 95.

³⁹ See Judicial Council Decisions 4, 57, 127.

respective Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and⁴⁰ consecrated in the historic manner of episcopal Methodism at such time and place as may be fixed by the General Conference.⁴¹

¶ 36. *Art. III.*—There shall be a Council of Bishops composed of all the bishops of all the Jurisdictional and Central Conferences. The council shall meet at least once a year and plan for the general oversight and promotion of the temporal and spiritual interests of the entire church and for carrying into effect the rules, regulations, and responsibilities prescribed and enjoined by the General Conference, and in accord with the provisions set forth in this Plan of Union.

¶ 37. *Art. IV.*—The bishops of each Jurisdictional and Central Conference shall arrange the plan of episcopal supervision of the Annual Conferences, Mission Conferences, and Missions within their respective territories.⁴²

¶ 38. *Art. V.*—The bishops shall have residential and presidential supervision in the Jurisdictional Conferences in which they are elected. A bishop may be transferred from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction for presidential and residential supervision by the Council of Bishops when such transfer is requested by the Jurisdictional Conference to which such proposed transfer is to be made.

A bishop may be assigned by the Council of Bishops for presidential service or other temporary service, not to exceed a year, in another jurisdiction than that which elected him, provided request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed service.

In the case of an emergency in any jurisdiction through the death or disability of its bishops the Council of Bishops may assign one or more bishops from other jurisdictions to the work of the said jurisdiction with the consent of a majority of the bishops of that jurisdiction.⁴³

¶ 39. *Art. VI.*—The bishops of The Methodist Episcopal Church and of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

⁴⁰ Amendment I, announced as effective in 1944, deleted the words "ordained or."

⁴¹ See Judicial Council Decision 21.

⁴² See Judicial Council Decisions 48, 57.

⁴³ See Judicial Council Decision 84.

at the time union is consummated, shall be bishops of The Methodist Church.⁴⁴

The delegates from the Annual Conferences of The Methodist Protestant Church in the Uniting Conference shall have the authority and power to elect to the office of bishop two ministers of their church who, upon ordination or consecration at the Uniting Conference by the bishops of the other two churches, shall become effective bishops of The Methodist Church.

The effective bishops shall be assigned for service to the various Jurisdictional Conferences by the Uniting Conference.

¶ 40. *Art. VII.*—A bishop presiding over a District, Annual, or Jurisdictional Conference shall decide all questions of law coming before him in the regular business of a session; provided that such questions be presented in writing and that his decisions be recorded in the journal of the conference.

Such an episcopal decision shall not be authoritative except for the pending case until it shall have been passed upon by the Judicial Council. Each bishop shall report in writing annually all his decisions of law, with a syllabus of the same, to the Judicial Council, which shall affirm, modify, or reverse them.⁴⁵

¶ 41. *Art. VIII.*—The bishops of the several Jurisdictional Conferences shall preside in the sessions of their respective Jurisdictional Conferences.

DIVISION FOUR. THE JUDICIARY

¶ 42. *Article I.*—There shall be a Judicial Council. The General Conference shall determine the number and qualifications of its members, their terms of office, and the method of election and the filling of vacancies.⁴⁶

¶ 43. *Art. II.*—The Judicial Council shall have authority:

1. To determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops, or one fifth of the members of the

⁴⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 84.

⁴⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 64.

⁴⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 62.

General Conference; and to determine the constitutionality of any act of a Jurisdictional or Central Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that Jurisdictional or Central Conference or upon the appeal of one fifth of the members of that Jurisdictional or Central Conference.

2. To hear and determine any appeal from a bishop's decision on a question of law made in the Annual or District Conference when said appeal has been made by one fifth of that conference present and voting.⁴⁷

3. To pass upon decisions of law made by bishops in Annual or District Conferences.

4. To hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board or Jurisdictional or Central Conference board or body, upon appeal by one third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops or a majority of the bishops of a Jurisdictional or a Central Conference.

5. To have such other duties and powers as may be conferred upon it by the General Conference.

6. To provide its own methods of organization and procedure.

¶ 44. *Art. III.*—All decisions of the Judicial Council shall be final. However, when the Judicial Council shall declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional, that decision shall be reported back to that General Conference immediately.

PROCEDURE—UNITING CONFERENCE

¶ 45. *Article I.*—There shall be a Uniting Conference composed of 900 delegates, of whom 400 shall be from The Methodist Episcopal Church, 400 from The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and 100 from The Methodist Protestant Church, chosen in such manner as may be determined by the respective General Conferences; provided that the ministerial and lay members shall be in equal numbers.

Art. II.—The Uniting Conference shall be held within twelve months after the final approval and adoption of

⁴⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 66.

this Plan of Union by the three churches, at the call of the bishops of the two churches and the president of the General Conference of The Methodist Protestant Church, and at a date fixed by them and at a place selected by a Joint Commission on Entertainment of five persons from each of the three churches, this commission to be appointed by the bishops of the two churches and the president of The Methodist Protestant General Conference.

Art. III.—The expenses of the Uniting Conference shall be borne by the three churches in proportion to their respective representation.

Art. IV.—The duties and powers of the Uniting Conference, subject to the provisions of this Plan of Union, shall be:

1. To harmonize and combine the rules and regulations as found in the Disciplines of the three churches relating to membership, the conferences, the ministry, judicial administration, and temporal economy.

2. To harmonize and combine the Rituals of the three churches.

3. To provide for the unification, co-ordination, and correlation of the connectional missionary, educational, and benevolent boards and societies of the three churches.

4. To provide for the unification, co-ordination, and correlation of the publishing interests of the three churches.

5. To provide a plan for the control and safeguarding of all permanent funds and other property interests of the three churches and the interests of those persons and causes for which these funds were established.

Art. V.—In order to facilitate the work of the Uniting Conference, the three General Conferences at the sessions wherein this Plan of Union is approved shall continue their Commissions on Union with such changes in personnel as they may desire, and authorize the Joint Commission thus formed to make special preparation for the Uniting Conference by the appointment of proper committees to deal with: (a) membership, conferences, ministry, judicial administration, and temporal economy; (b) Rituals; (c) connectional boards and societies; (d) publishing interests; (e) permanent and pension funds;

and (f) such other matters as imperatively call for advance consideration.

Art. VI.—All Annual Conferences of the three churches shall retain their existing status until by the action of the Uniting Conference it shall be determined otherwise.

Art. VII.—The legislative power of the Uniting Conference shall be confined to harmonizing and combining provisions now existing in the Disciplines of the three churches, or one or more of these churches.

Art. VIII.—The boundaries and composition of the Annual Conferences within the several Jurisdictional Conferences as made up in this Plan of Union shall be adjusted at the time of meeting of the Uniting Conference by the delegates from the Annual Conferences within the respective jurisdictions, sitting apart for that purpose during the period of the Uniting Conference; provided that in the case of those Annual Conferences that may be divided by the Jurisdictional Conference lines, their delegates shall allocate themselves to the respective Jurisdictional Conferences upon the basis of church membership of their conferences in the respective jurisdictions.

Art. IX.—The Uniting Conference shall fix the basis of representation of the Annual Conferences in the first General Conference and in the Jurisdictional and Central Conferences.

Art. X.—Pending the meeting of the Uniting Conference each of the three uniting churches shall be governed by the rules and regulations of its own Discipline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

¶ 46. I. The General Conference is authorized to extend to the autonomous Methodist churches outside the United States of America formerly connected with our bodies an invitation to enter into conference with us with respect to such relationship with The Methodist Church as may seem mutually desirable.

II. The co-operative relationships which already exist between any of these three Methodist bodies and churches in foreign fields not covered by other provisions herein shall be continued as may seem mutually advantageous.

III. The world-wide character of Methodism shall be

recognized by participation in the Ecumenical Methodist Conference⁴⁸ and by the appointment of a commission to assist in bringing all Methodist bodies throughout the world into more intimate and effective relationship.

IV. We recommend that financial support of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church⁴⁹ be continued by those jurisdictional divisions with which said church is historically related, and to such an extent as those jurisdictions may deem wise.

THE ARTICLES OF RELIGION

I. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity

¶ 61. There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

II. Of the Word, or Son of God, who was made very Man

¶ 62. The Son, who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin; so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided; whereof is one Christ, very God and very Man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for the actual sins of men.

III. Of the Resurrection of Christ

¶ 63. Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into

⁴⁸ The name of this organization was changed to World Methodist Council on September 7, 1951.

⁴⁹ The name of this church was changed to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on May 17, 1954.

heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day.

IV. *Of the Holy Ghost*

¶ 64. The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

V. *Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation*

¶ 65. The Holy Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation; so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man that it should be believed as an article of faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the Holy Scriptures we do understand those canonical books of the Old and New Testament of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church. The names of the canonical books are:

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, The First Book of Samuel, The Second Book of Samuel, The First Book of Kings, The Second Book of Kings, The First Book of Chronicles, The Second Book of Chronicles, The Book of Ezra, The Book of Nehemiah, The Book of Esther, The Book of Job, The Psalms, The Proverbs, Ecclesiastes or the Preacher, Cantica or Song of Solomon, Four Prophets the Greater, Twelve Prophets the Less.

All the books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive and account canonical.

VI. *Of the Old Testament*

¶ 66. The Old Testament is not contrary to the New; for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and man, being both God and Man. Wherefore they are not to be heard who feign that the old fathers did look only for transitory promises. Although the law given from God by Moses as touching ceremonies and rites doth not bind Christians, nor ought the civil precepts thereof of necessity be received in any commonwealth; yet notwithstanding, no Christian whatso-

ever is free from the obedience of the commandments which are called moral.

VII. *Of Original or Birth Sin*

¶ 67. Original sin standeth not in the following of Adam (as the Pelagians do vainly talk); but it is the corruption of the nature of every man, that naturally is engendered of the offspring of Adam, whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and of his own nature inclined to evil, and that continually.

VIII. *Of Free Will*

¶ 68. The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and works, to faith, and calling upon God; wherefore we have no power to do good works, pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

IX. *Of the Justification of Man*

¶ 69. We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort.

X. *Of Good Works*

¶ 70. Although good works, which are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's judgment; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and spring out of a true and lively faith, insomuch that by them a lively faith may be as evidently known as a tree is discerned by its fruit.

XI. *Of Works of Supererogation*

¶ 71. Voluntary works—besides, over and above God's commandments—which are called works of supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety. For by them men do declare that they do not only render

unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake than of bounden duty is required; whereas Christ saith plainly: When ye have done all that is commanded of you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

XII. *Of Sin after Justification*

¶ 72. Not every sin willingly committed after justification is the sin against the Holy Spirit, and unpardonable. Wherefore, the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after justification: after we have received the Holy Spirit, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and, by the grace of God, rise again and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned who say they can no more sin as long as they live here; or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

XIII. *Of the Church*

¶ 73. The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

XIV. *Of Purgatory*

¶ 74. The Romish doctrine concerning purgatory, pardon, worshiping, and adoration, as well of images as of relics, and also invocation of saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warrant of Scripture, but repugnant to the Word of God.

XV. *Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People Understand*

¶ 75. It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the primitive Church, to have public prayer in the church, or to administer the Sacraments, in a tongue not understood by the people.

XVI. *Of the Sacraments*

¶ 76. Sacraments ordained of Christ are not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they

are certain signs of grace, and God's good will toward us, by which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm, our faith in him.

There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Supper of the Lord.

Those five commonly called sacraments, that is to say, confirmation, penance, orders, matrimony, and extreme unction, are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel; being such as have partly grown out of the *corrupt* following of the apostles, and partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures, but yet have not the like nature of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, because they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about; but that we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same they have a wholesome effect or operation; but they that receive them unworthily, purchase to themselves condemnation, as St. Paul saith, I Cor. 11:29.

XVII. *Of Baptism*

¶ 77. Baptism is not only a sign of profession and mark of difference whereby Christians are distinguished from others that are not baptized; but it is also a sign of regeneration or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the church.

XVIII. *Of the Lord's Supper*

¶ 78. The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another, but rather is a sacrament of our redemption by Christ's death; insomuch that, to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith receive the same, the bread which we break is a partaking of the body of Christ; and likewise the cup of blessing is a partaking of the blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation, or the change of the substance of bread and wine in the Supper of our Lord, cannot be

proved by Holy Writ, but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the means whereby the body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.

XIX. Of Both Kinds .

¶ 79. The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the Lord's Supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered to all Christians alike.

XX. Of the One Oblation of Christ, finished upon the Cross

¶ 80. The offering of Christ, once made, is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifice of masses, in the which it is commonly said that the priest doth offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, is a blasphemous fable and dangerous deceit.

XXI. Of the Marriage of Ministers

¶ 81. The ministers of Christ are not commanded by God's law either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage; therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christians, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve best to godliness.

XXII. Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

¶ 82. It is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same, or exactly alike; for they have been always different, and may be changed according to the diversity of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word.

Whosoever, through his private judgment, willingly and purposely doth openly break the rites and ceremonies of the church to which he belongeth, which are not repugnant to the Word of God, and are ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly (that others may fear to do the like), as one that offendeth against the common order of the church, and woundeth the consciences of weak brethren.

Every particular church may ordain, change, or abolish rites and ceremonies, so that all things may be done to edification.

XXIII. Of the Rulers of the United States of America

¶ 83. The President, the Congress, the general assemblies, the governors, and the councils of state as the *delegates of the people*, are the rulers of the United States of America, according to the division of power made to them by the Constitution of the United States and by the constitutions of their respective states. And the said states are a sovereign and independent nation, and ought not to be subject to any foreign jurisdiction.

XXIV. Of Christian Men's Goods

¶ 84. The riches and goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title, and possession of the same, as some do falsely boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

XXV. Of a Christian Man's Oath

¶ 85. As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ and James his apostle; so we judge that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the prophet's teaching, in justice, judgment, and truth.

The following Article from the Methodist Protestant Discipline is placed here by the Uniting Conference. It was not one of the Articles of Religion voted upon by the three churches.

Of Sanctification

¶ 86. Sanctification is that renewal of our fallen nature by the Holy Ghost, received through faith in Jesus Christ, whose blood of atonement cleanseth from all sin; where- by we are not only delivered from the guilt of sin, but are washed from its pollution, saved from its power, and are enabled, through grace, to love God with all our hearts and to walk in his holy commandments blameless.

The following provision was adopted by the Uniting Con- ference. This statement seeks to interpret to our churches in foreign lands Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion. It is a legislative enactment but is not a part of the Constitution. (See Judicial Council Decision 41.)

Of the Duty of Christians to the Civil Authority

¶ 87. It is the duty of all Christians, and especially of all Christian ministers, to observe and obey the laws and commands of the governing or supreme authority of the country of which they are citizens or subjects or in which they reside, and to use all laudable means to en- courage and enjoin obedience to the powers that be.

THE GENERAL RULES

The Nature, Design and General Rules of Our United Societies

¶ 91. In the latter end of the year 1739 eight or ten persons who appeared to be deeply convicted of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption, came to Mr. Wesley in London. They desired, as did two or three more the next day, that he would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That he might have more time for this great work, he appointed a day when they might all come to- gether, which from thenceforward they did every week, namely, on Thursday in the evening. To these, and as many more as desire to join with them (for their num- ber increased daily), he gave those advices from time to

time which he judged most needful for them, and they always concluded their meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

¶ 92. This was the rise of the **United Society**, first in Europe, and then in America. Such a society is no other than "*a company of men having the form and seeking the power of godliness, united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*"

¶ 93. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each society is divided into smaller companies, called **classes**, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in a class, one of whom is styled the **leader**. It is his duty,

1. To see each person in his class once a week at least, in order: (1) to inquire how his soul prospers; (2) to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may re- quire; (3) to receive what he is willing to give toward the relief of the preachers, church, and poor.

2. To meet the ministers and the stewards of the so- ciety once a week, in order: (1) to inform the minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly and will not be reprov'd; (2) to pay the stewards what he has received of his class in the week preceding.

¶ 94. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these societies—"a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins." But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits.

¶ 95. It is therefore expected of all who continue there- in that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practiced, such as:

The taking of the name of God in vain.

The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work therein or by buying or selling.

Drunkenness, buying or selling spirituous liquors, or

drinking them, unless in cases of extreme necessity.

Slaveholding; buying or selling slaves.

Fighting, quarreling, brawling, brother going to law with brother; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing; the using of many words in buying or selling.

The buying or selling goods that have not paid the duty.

The giving or taking of things on usury—that is, unlawful interest.

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation; particularly speaking evil of magistrates or ministers.

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us.

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God, as:

The putting on of gold and costly apparel.

The taking of such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God.

Softness and needless self-indulgence.

Laying up treasure upon earth.

Borrowing without a probability of paying; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

¶ 96. It is expected of all who continue in these societies that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation.

Second: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men:

To their bodies, of the ability which God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison;

To their souls, by instructing, reproving, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine, that "we are not to do good unless *our hearts be free to it.*"

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith or groaning so to be; employing them preferably to others; buying one of another; helping each other in business; and so much the more because the world will love its own and them *only.*

By all possible diligence and frugality, that the gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race which is set before them, denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ, to be as the filth and offscouring of the world; and looking that men should say all manner of evil of them *falsely*, for the Lord's sake.

¶ 97. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these societies that they shall continue to evidence their desire of salvation.

Third: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are:

The public worship of God.

The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded.

The Supper of the Lord.

Family and private prayer.

Seaching the Scriptures.

Fasting or abstinence.

¶ 98. These are the General Rules of our societies; all of which we are taught of God to observe, even in his written Word, which is the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know his Spirit writes on truly awakened hearts. If there be any among us who observes them not, who habitually breaks any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. We will bear with him for a season. But, if then he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

PART II

THE LOCAL CHURCH

CHAPTER I

THE PASTORAL CHARGE

¶ 101. The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered according to Christ's ordinance, in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same. (Article of Religion XIII, ¶ 73.)

¶ 102. The **local church** is a connectional society of persons who have professed their faith in Christ, have been baptized, have assumed the vows of membership in The Methodist Church, and are associated in fellowship as a local Methodist church in order that they may hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments, and carry forward the work which Christ has committed to his Church. Such a society of believers, being within The Methodist Church and subject to its Discipline, is also an inherent part of the Church Universal, which is composed of all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and which in the Apostles' Creed we declare to be the holy catholic Church.¹

¶ 103. In order that each local church may be an effective connectional unit in The Methodist Church, it shall be the duty of all district superintendents and pastors to organize and administer the charges and churches committed to their care in accordance with the plan herein after set forth.

¶ 104. A **pastoral charge** shall consist of one or more

¹ See Judicial Council Decision 86.

churches which are organized under, and subject to, the Discipline of The Methodist Church, with a single pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference, and to which a minister is or may be duly appointed or appointable as preacher in charge. A pastoral charge of two or more churches is a **circuit**.

CHAPTER II

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

¶ 105. The membership of a local Methodist church shall consist of all persons who have been received into its fellowship on profession of their faith (¶¶ 107-9), by transfer from some other church (¶¶ 110-11), or by restoration (¶¶ 124-25, 977), and whose membership has not been terminated by death, transfer (¶¶ 121-22), withdrawal (¶¶ 123-24), expulsion (¶ 974), or action of the Quarterly Conference (¶ 125). A member of a local Methodist church is a member of The Methodist Church.

SECTION I. Admission into the Church

¶ 107. All persons seeking to be saved from their sins and sincerely desiring to be Christian in faith and practice are proper candidates for membership in The Methodist Church. When such persons offer themselves for membership, it shall be the duty of the pastor, or of proper persons appointed by him, to instruct them in the meaning of the Christian faith and the history, organization, and teaching of The Methodist Church; to explain to them the baptismal and membership vows (¶¶ 1911-12, 1914-15); and to lead them to commit themselves to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. When they shall have given proof of the genuineness of their faith in Christ and of their desire to assume the obligations and become faithful members of The Methodist Church, and after the rite of baptism has been administered to those who have not been previously baptized, he shall bring them before the congregation, administer the vows (¶¶ 1914-15) and receive

them into the fellowship of the Church, and duly enroll them as members.

¶ 108. A duly authorized minister of The Methodist Church while serving as chaplain of any organization, institution, or military unit, or while otherwise present where a local church is not available, may receive a person into the membership of The Methodist Church when such person shall have given proof of the genuineness of his faith in Christ and of his desire to assume the obligations and become a faithful member of the Church. After the vows of membership have been administered (¶¶ 1914-15), such minister shall issue a statement of membership to the local church of the choice of the person concerned, and the pastor thereof on receiving such statement shall duly enroll him as a member.

¶ 109. Any candidate for church membership who for good reason is unable to appear before the congregation may, at the discretion of the pastor and with the approval of the Official Board, be received elsewhere in accordance with the Ritual of The Methodist Church (¶¶ 1914-15); *provided* that in the event of a clear emergency the pastor may receive such person without the approval of the board, in which case he shall report his action to the board at its next meeting.

¶ 110. A person who is a member of The Methodist Church may have his membership transferred from one local church to another by a proper certificate of transfer.

¶ 111. A member in good standing in any Christian denomination who has been baptized and who desires to unite with The Methodist Church may be received into membership by a proper certificate of transfer from his former church, or by his own declaration of Christian faith, and upon affirming his willingness to be loyal to The Methodist Church, and after he and the members of the church have entered into to solemn covenant with one another as provided in the Ritual (¶ 1916).

¶ 112. A member of The Methodist Church, residing for an extended period in a city or community at a distance from his home church, may on his request be enrolled as an **affiliate member** of a Methodist church located in the

vicinity of his temporary residence (see ¶ 1916). His home pastor shall be notified of his affiliate membership. Such membership shall entitle him to the fellowship of that church, to its pastoral care and oversight, and to participation in its activities, including the holding of office, except as otherwise provided (see ¶¶ 138, 144, 207), but he shall be counted and reported only as a member of his home church. A member of another denomination may become an affiliate member under the same conditions.

SEC. II. Transfer and Termination of Membership

¶ 118. Membership in a local church may be terminated by death, transfer (¶¶ 121-22), withdrawal (¶¶ 123-24), expulsion (¶ 974), or action of the Quarterly Conference (¶ 125). It shall be the duty of the pastor of the charge or of the membership secretary to keep an accurate record of all terminations of membership and to report to each Quarterly Conference the names of all persons whose membership has been terminated since the conference preceding; in each instance indicating the reason for such termination.

¶ 119. If a member of a Methodist church shall change his place of residence to another community, so far removed from his home church that he cannot participate regularly in its worship and activity, he shall be encouraged to transfer his membership to a Methodist church in the community of his newly established residence. As soon as his pastor is reliably informed of his change of residence, actual or contemplated, it shall be the pastor's duty and obligation to assist him to establish himself in the fellowship of a church in the community of his future home, and to send to a Methodist pastor in such community, or to the district superintendent, or (if neither is known) to the General Board of Evangelism, a letter of notification, giving the latest known address of the person or persons concerned and requesting local pastoral oversight. The above procedure is based on the recognition that absentee membership is not good for the individual or the church, and that it is essential that we recognize that the care of souls and the building up of the whole church is more important than retaining mem-

bership in a particular congregation, whether for sentiment or other reasons.

¶ 120. When a pastor discovers a member of The Methodist Church residing in his community whose membership is in a church so far removed from his place of residence that he cannot participate regularly in its worship and activity, it shall be his duty and obligation to give pastoral oversight to such person, and to persuade him, if possible, to transfer his membership to a Methodist church in the community where he resides.

¶ 121. When a pastor shall receive from another pastor of a Methodist church, or from the person concerned, a request for a **certificate of transfer** for a member of his church, he shall issue the same in the following form, and shall make proper entry on his church roll of the transfer of such person, and his membership shall thereby be transferred:

This is to certify that A.B. who resides at _____ has been a member of the _____ Methodist Church in _____. On request his (her) membership is hereby transferred to the _____ Methodist Church in _____, and he (she) is affectionately commended to its care and fellowship. Notice of this certificate of transfer has been sent to the person above named.

_____, Pastor
Date _____ Address _____

The original certificate shall be accompanied by a blank form for the acknowledgment of the same in the following form:

The certificate of transfer of the membership of A.B. from the _____ Methodist Church in _____ to the _____ Methodist Church is hereby acknowledged. He (she) has been duly received into our fellowship and recorded as a member in this church.

_____, Pastor
Date _____ Address _____

Notice shall be sent to the person whose membership is thus being transferred in the following form:

This day I have issued a certificate of transfer of your membership to the _____ Methodist Church in _____, commending you to its care and fellowship. In your new relationship we bid you Godspeed.

_____, Pastor
Date _____ Address _____

The certificate of transfer shall be sent directly to the pastor of the Methodist church to which the certificate is issued, or to the district superintendent if there is no pastor. On receipt of such certificate of transfer, the pastor or the district superintendent receiving the same shall record on the membership roll of the church the name of the person thus transferred, and the person shall be a member thereof; whereupon the pastor or district superintendent shall certify to the pastor issuing the certificate that the name appearing on said certificate has been duly entered on the membership roll of the receiving church.

¶ 122. A pastor upon receiving a request from a member of his church to transfer to a church of another denomination, or upon receiving such request from a pastor or duly authorized official of another denomination, shall (with the approval of the member) issue a certificate of transfer and shall properly record the transfer of such person on the membership roll of the local church; and his membership shall thereby be terminated. For the transfer of a member of The Methodist Church to a church of another denomination forms similar to those described in ¶ 121 shall be used, with the substitution of the name of the other denomination for the word "Methodist" in appropriate places in those forms.

¶ 123. If a pastor is informed that a member of his church has, without notice, united with a church of another denomination, he shall make diligent inquiry; and if the report is confirmed, he shall enter "Withdrawn" after the person's name on the membership roll, and shall report the same to the next Quarterly Conference.

¶ 124. If a member proposes to withdraw from The Methodist Church, he shall communicate his purpose in writing to the pastor of the local church in which his membership is held. On receiving such notice of with-

drawal, the pastor shall properly record the fact of withdrawal on the membership roll. If requested, the pastor shall give a statement of withdrawal to such member. Such person, on his written request, may be restored to membership on recommendation of the pastor and by vote of the Quarterly Conference.

¶ 125. If a member of a local church is for a period of two years persistently negligent of his vows, or without good and sufficient reason continuously absents himself for such period from the worship of the church, or has persistently refused for such period without just reason to support the church, or if his address has been unknown to the members of the congregation for two years, his name may be removed from the church membership roll by vote of the Quarterly Conference on recommendation of the pastor and of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. Before such action is taken, the pastor or the commission shall visit or otherwise communicate with such person, if his address is known, and entreat him to become a faithful member. If he refuses to give heed to such entreaty, the Quarterly Conference may proceed as above indicated, and order to be entered on the membership roll after his name the following: "Removed by order of the Quarterly Conference." The membership of such person shall thereby be terminated, and the record thereof shall be retained; *provided* that he may be restored to membership by vote of the Quarterly Conference on his request and on recommendation of the pastor; and *provided*, further, that should a transfer of his membership be requested, the pastor may restore him to membership for this purpose and issue the certificate of transfer. The Commission on Membership and Evangelism shall review annually the membership roll of the church, and shall make recommendations to the fourth Quarterly Conference according to the above provisions.

¶ 126. If a local church is discontinued, the pastor shall transfer the members to such other local churches as they may select. If any do not so select, the district superintendent shall select another Methodist church and transfer their membership thereto. (See ¶¶ 188, 354.)

SEC. III.

Children and the Church

¶ 127. We hold that all children, by virtue of the unconditional benefits of the atonement, are members of the family of God, and are therefore graciously entitled to Baptism. It shall be the duty of the pastor of every charge earnestly to exhort parents and guardians within his constituency to dedicate their children to the Lord in Baptism; as early as practicable. Before Baptism is administered, he shall instruct the parents or guardians concerning the meaning of this Sacrament and the vows which they assume (¶ 1910), and he shall exhort them to be ever faithful therein. After Baptism has been administered, the name of the child shall be entered on the permanent records of the church, recording date and place of birth, date of Baptism, and the names of parents or guardians. The pastor shall deliver to the parents or guardians a **certificate of Baptism**, in proper form.

¶ 128. The names of all baptized children within the local church shall be kept on the preparatory membership roll (¶ 132). When a certificate of transfer is issued for parents of any baptized child who has not assumed the vows of full membership, a preparatory membership transfer for such child shall be issued at the same time and to the same church, and proper record shall be made on the preparatory membership roll. When children on the preparatory membership roll shall have reached the age of sixteen without becoming members of any church, they shall be transferred to the constituency roll (¶ 132).

¶ 129. It shall be the duty of the pastor, in co-operation with their parents and the officers and teachers of the church school, to lead the children of the church to an understanding of the Christian faith, to an appreciation of the privileges and obligations of church membership, and to a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The pastor or a person appointed by him shall, at least annually, organize the children who have arrived at the age of decision into classes of instruction for church membership. When they shall have given evidence of their understanding and of their sincerity of purpose, and shall have completed a course of study approved by The Methodist Church, they shall be brought before the congrega-

tion and admitted into the full membership of the church (¶ 1915), and their names shall be duly recorded on the membership roll.

SEC. IV. Membership Records and Reports

¶ 130. The pastor shall report to each Quarterly Conference the names of persons received into the membership of the church or churches of the pastoral charge since the Quarterly Conference preceding, and the names of persons whose membership in the church or churches of the pastoral charge has been terminated during the same period, indicating in the case of each how he was received or how his membership was terminated.

¶ 131. The basic membership records in each local church shall consist of: (1) a permanent church register, and (2) a card index or loose-leaf book.

1. The **permanent church register** shall be a bound volume of durable material, prepared by The Methodist Publishing House at a reasonable price, in the form approved by the Council on World Service and Finance (¶ 1120 § 6). Space shall be provided for a record of members, showing the full name of each, how each was admitted into the church, the date, by whom received, and how the membership of each was terminated, with the date. Space shall also be provided for recording marriages, baptisms, deaths, pastoral terms, and such other matters as may be essential to a permanent record of the church's membership and ministry, as may be determined by the Council on World Service and Finance. The names shall be recorded chronologically as each person is received into the fellowship of that church, and without reference to alphabetical order. Each name shall be numbered, in regular numerical order, and the number of each shall appear on the corresponding card or page in the card index or loose-leaf membership roll. This provision is for the purpose of ensuring facility in locating any name on the permanent church register.

2. The **card index or loose-leaf membership record** shall be kept on a form approved by the Council on World Service and Finance (¶ 1120 § 6), or on other forms that include the items approved by the said coun-

cil. Space shall be provided for the name and address, how and when received, and such other information as may be determined by the committee. This record of membership shall be filed in alphabetical order, and shall show the number appearing opposite each name on the permanent register so that such name may be promptly located. The pastor shall report annually to the Annual Conference the total membership of his charge as shown on his membership records.

¶ 132. The pastor or membership secretary shall also keep a **constituency roll** containing the names and addresses of such persons as are not members of the church concerned, including unbaptized children, for whom the local church has pastoral responsibility; and a **preparatory membership roll** containing the names of all baptized children in the church who have not been received into full membership (¶ 127). Such other membership rolls, including an **affiliate membership roll** (¶ 112), shall be maintained as may be judged necessary for proper pastoral care and the general work of the church.

CHAPTER III

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

SECTION I.

General Provisions

¶ 137. Within the pastoral charge (¶ 104) the **Quarterly Conference** is the basic body of control uniting it to connectional Methodism, and through the Quarterly Conference the pastoral charge functions in its relationship thereto.² The Quarterly Conference shall therefore be organized in every pastoral charge, as provided in the Constitution (¶¶ 31-32). The membership thereof, and its authority, powers, duties, and responsibilities shall be as hereinafter set forth.

¶ 138. The following shall constitute the membership of the Quarterly Conference, in so far as the offices and relationships exist within the pastoral charge.

² See Judicial Council Decision 130.

1. The pastor and the associate pastor or pastors; the retired and supernumerary ministers residing in that place who elect to hold membership therein; *provided* that each such person may be a member of one Quarterly Conference only; traveling preachers who, because they are assigned to special work, have been attached to the Quarterly Conference concerned by appointment of the bishop (¶ 432).

2. The local preachers holding their membership in the pastoral charge, and deaconesses appointed to labor therein or holding their membership in the charge while on leave of absence (¶ 1252 § 10).

3. The stewards, elective and ex officio (¶¶ 208-9), and the trustees of the church, or churches, in the pastoral charge (¶ 159); *provided*, however, that all lay members of the Quarterly Conference shall be members of a local church within the charge, and all except the president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship or the president of the Youth Council shall be not less than eighteen years of age.

¶ 139. The district superintendent or an elder designated by him shall preside. The district superintendent shall fix the time for the meeting of the Quarterly Conference, but the conference may appoint the place; *provided* that should necessity arise the district superintendent and the pastor may change the place of meeting. A special session of the Quarterly Conference may be called by the district superintendent or by the pastor with the written consent of the district superintendent. Quarterly Conferences for two or more pastoral charges may be held at the same time and place, as the district superintendent may determine. (For provisions regarding notice of meetings see ¶¶ 154, 168, 170-72, 180.)

¶ 140. There shall be held for each pastoral charge a first and fourth Quarterly Conference. The second and third Quarterly Conferences may be held at the discretion of the district superintendent. A **recording steward** shall be elected annually, who shall keep an accurate and permanent record of the proceedings and shall be the custodian of all records and reports, and who with the presiding officer shall sign the minutes.

¶ 141. The Quarterly Conference, after a period of worship, shall transact the business committed to it by the Discipline,^a following the order indicated on the form bearing the title "Minutes of the Quarterly Conference" approved by the Council on World Service and Finance (¶ 1120 § 6) and published by The Methodist Publishing House. The district superintendent is required in so far as possible to keep his record of each Quarterly Conference on this official form. It shall also be his duty to see that other Quarterly Conference and church records and reports are written on our approved forms. If the observance of the order of business as provided in these forms seems likely to protract a session beyond a reasonable limit, the presiding officer may, with the approval of the Quarterly Conference, select the more important matters and bring them forward.

¶ 142. To the Quarterly Conference are committed the following powers and duties:

1. To have general oversight of the Official Board, which is the administrative body of the Quarterly Conference in each local church. (See ¶¶ 206-16.)

2. To receive reports from the pastor (¶ 352 § 22), from church officers, and from the commissions, committees, and societies of the church or churches of the pastoral charge as the Quarterly Conference may require.

3. To elect the officers of the church or churches constituting the pastoral charge (¶ 32), unless otherwise provided, in harmony with the provisions of the Constitution of The Methodist Church, and to constitute the required and optional commissions for each local church (¶¶ 144, 219) and such committees as may be determined by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 145).

4. In cases where the Discipline permits more than one course of action in the administration and work of a pastoral charge, to determine what course shall be taken. (See ¶¶ 157, 176, 197-200.)

5. To recommend proper persons for license to preach and for the office of deaconess, and to certify lay speakers (¶ 146).

^a See Judicial Council Decision 102.

6. To fix the salary of the pastor or pastors (¶¶ 148, 215 § 2).

7. To determine annually the amount accepted by the charge for world service and conference benevolences (¶ 147).

8. Such other powers and duties as have been or may be duly committed to it.

SEC. II.

Elections

¶ 143. The Quarterly Conference, preferably the fourth, shall elect annually, to serve from the beginning of the ensuing conference year, the following officers for the pastoral charge on nomination of the Committee on Nominations, or on nomination of the pastor if there is no such committee (¶¶ 142 § 3, 145 § 1), unless otherwise provided in the Discipline; or it shall authorize the Annual Church Conference to elect such officers, in which case it shall issue a call for an Annual Church Conference for that purpose (¶¶ 32, 197-200); *provided* that in no case shall the privilege of making nominations from the floor be denied.

1. The elective stewards of the church or churches of the pastoral charge (¶¶ 207-11).

2. The church lay leader or leaders (¶ 288).

3. The district steward and reserve district steward; *provided* that the Committee on Nominations or the pastor shall confer with the district superintendent before any nomination is made (¶¶ 796-97, 802).

4. The lay member of the Annual Conference, annually or quadrennially, as the Annual Conference may direct, and one or more reserve members. If the charge's lay representative to the Annual Conference shall cease to be a member of the charge or shall for any reason fail to serve, a reserve member in the order of his election shall serve in his place.⁴

5. Elective members of the District Conference, if any (¶ 667).

6. The chairmen of the commissions (¶¶ 144, 219).

7. The church-school superintendent or superintendents (¶¶ 246 § 1, 248 § 3).

⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 109.

8. The membership cultivation superintendent and division superintendents of each church school, on nomination of its church-school superintendent-elect with the approval of the pastor in consultation with the director of Christian education (¶ 246 § 1).

9. A director of Christian education, or educational assistant, if desired, on nomination of the pastor with the concurrence of the Commission on Education (¶¶ 246-47).

10. The director or directors of stewardship (¶¶ 262-63).

11. The communion steward or stewards, whose duty it shall be to provide the elements for Holy Communion, under the direction of the pastor, and properly to arrange the communion table.

12. The recording steward (¶ 140).

13. Such other officers of the church, or churches, as may be called for by the General, Jurisdictional, Annual, or District Conference, or as shall be determined by the Quarterly Conference; *provided* that all such shall be in harmony with the provisions of the Discipline.

For the election of trustees see ¶¶ 157-61, 183.

¶ 144. The Quarterly Conference shall elect annually from the membership of the church or churches in the charge, on nomination of the Committee on Nominations, or of the pastor if there is no such committee, at least four commissions: a Commission on Membership and Evangelism, a Commission on Education, a Commission on Missions, and a Commission on Stewardship and Finance (for optional commissions see ¶ 219); *provided* that in pastoral charges of more than one church the commissions shall be nominated by the Official Board of each church respectively with the concurrence of the pastor (or, if the board fails to make such nominations, they shall be made by the pastor); or it may authorize the Annual Church Conference to elect the commissions, in which case it shall authorize a call for an Annual Church Conference for that purpose (¶¶ 32, 197-200); *provided* that in no case shall the privilege of making nominations from the floor be denied. Unless otherwise provided (see ¶¶ 221, 232) the elected membership of each commission shall be not fewer than three, and as many additional members as the Quarterly Conference may determine. Each commission

shall work under the authority and direction of the Official Board, the duties of each being hereinafter defined and set forth (¶¶ 220-76). Such commissions shall be elected at the fourth Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge, and shall serve from the beginning of the ensuing conference year. Should the Quarterly Conference fail to elect the above-named commissions, the Official Board shall elect them and report to the district superintendent. The chairmen of all commissions shall be nominated and elected in the same manner and at the same time as the members of the commissions (¶ 143 § 6).

¶ 145. The Quarterly Conference shall select from the committees designated hereunder such committees as it determines to be necessary to the work of the Quarterly Conference, the same to be nominated by the Committee on Nominations (or by the pastor if there is no such committee), unless otherwise provided in the Discipline, and elected by the Quarterly Conference; or it may authorize the Annual Church Conference to elect such committees together with the commissions as provided in ¶ 144.

1. The **Committee on Nominations**, of which the pastor shall be chairman, which shall nominate to the Quarterly Conference or to the Annual Church Conference such officers and members of Quarterly Conference commissions and committees as the law of the church requires (¶ 144) or as the Quarterly Conference may determine as necessary to its work; *provided* that all the elective members of the Committee on Nominations shall be nominated from the floor.

2. The **Committee on Pastoral Relations**, which shall consist of not fewer than three nor more than nine persons; *provided* that in a circuit each church shall have at least one representative on the committee. The primary function of this committee is to aid the pastor in making his ministry most effective by being available for counsel, keeping him advised concerning conditions within the congregation as they affect relations between pastor and people, and keeping the people informed concerning the nature and function of the pastoral office. When the pastor is to be absent, the committee shall co-operate with him to secure suitable supply ministers for preaching and other

pastoral service during his absence. Since a responsibility of the committee is to be at all times sensitive to the relationship between pastor and people, should it become evident to the committee that the best interests of the charge and pastor will be served by a change of pastors, the committee shall confer with the pastor and furnish him with this information. The committee shall co-operate with the pastor, the district superintendent, and the bishop in arranging for a change of pastors. The committee shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference, and its relation to the district superintendent and bishop shall be advisory only.

3. The **Committee on Lay Personnel**, of which the pastor or a person designated by him shall be chairman, which shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining personnel policy for all lay employees, and other employees not within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Pastoral Relations, in keeping with highest standards of Christian practice. This committee shall make provision for range of compensation, working hours, vacation schedule, and sick leave. It shall, after study, recommend other lay employee benefits such as the retirement plan of the Lay Employees Pension Fund (¶ 1658) or other plans in addition to the Federal Social Security provisions; life insurance; health and hospitalization insurance; and disability insurance to compensate employees unable to work because of illness or injury. It should be the aim of this committee to insure for employees of the church rights and considerations at least no less than those representative of enlightened and Christian policies now commonly practiced by secular institutions. This committee shall be amenable to the Quarterly Conference.

4. The **Committee on Records and History**, which shall be responsible for assisting the pastor to see that all church and Quarterly Conference records are kept on the official record blanks provided by The Methodist Publishing House under the direction of the Council on World Service and Finance (¶ 1120 § 6). This committee shall examine the Quarterly Conference records annually after the fourth Quarterly Conference and shall report the results of its examination to the first Quarterly Conference

of the ensuing year. The committee, with the pastor, shall be responsible for preparing, where it does not already exist, and after the Quarterly Conference has approved such an undertaking, a history of the local church or churches from the time of organization, and provide for preserving the same in permanent form. At the close of each conference year it may add to this record facts concerning important activities and achievements of the church and its organizations. The committee shall see that any and all minute or record books no longer in current use are deposited with the recording steward. The committee shall co-operate with the recording steward in providing a permanent place for the safekeeping of the Quarterly Conference records and all other historical material belonging to the church.

5. The **Committee on Co-operation**, which shall be responsible for co-operation with other churches and constructive agencies and groups in the community; *provided* that in each instance such co-operation shall have been approved by the Quarterly Conference or the Official Board.

6. The **Committee on Policy**, which, after a careful survey of the work and needs of the pastoral charge, shall make recommendations concerning its improvement or extension; *provided* that the pastor shall nominate this committee and shall be its chairman. On charges of more than one church, each church shall have at least one member on this committee, and as far as practicable each of the local church commissions shall be represented thereon.

7. The **Parsonage Committee**, which, with the approval of the trustees, shall provide an adequate and comfortable residence for the pastor and maintain the proper upkeep and furnishing of the same; *provided* that on charges of only one church this committee shall be named by the Official Board, in which event it shall be responsible to the board (¶ 278 § 5).

8. The **Committee on Apportionments** (if the pastoral charge is a circuit), which shall recommend to the Quarterly Conference for its action and determination a proper schedule of apportionments among the churches of the pastoral charge for salaries, benevolences, and other items

properly apportioned to the charge, or assumed by it. Each church in the pastoral charge shall have representation on this committee.

9. The **Committee on Christian Vocations**, which shall be composed of the pastor, a layman elected by the Quarterly Conference, a representative of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the church-school superintendent, and the superintendent of the Youth Division. It shall co-operate with the Conference Commission on Christian Vocations. The duty of this committee shall be to see that the philosophy of Christian vocation and the opportunities in church vocations are regularly presented to the youth and adults of the church, to advise interested young people and adults of the necessary qualifications for all church vocations, and to give encouragement and guidance to candidates for the pastoral ministry and other church-related vocations. The committee shall report annually to the fall meeting of the Quarterly Conference (*see* ¶ 149 § 1), and to the Conference Commission on Christian Vocations.

10. The **Committee on Fellowship and Recreational Life**, which shall provide, in and through the church, occasions of fellowship and forms of recreation unquestionably wholesome and compatible with the mind and teachings of Christ. For an alternative provision for this committee *see* ¶ 235.

11. The **Farm and Home Committee**, composed of both men and women, which shall have the responsibility of assisting young couples to become established on the land and in small businesses inherent in the economy of the community, for the purpose of maintaining and strengthening the church community.

12. The **Committee on Wills and Legacies**, which shall keep before Methodist people and any others, by such means as the committee may determine, the desirability of leaving bequests to the local church, or to other causes and institutions of The Methodist Church. The committee shall seek legal counsel to the end that bequests may be made in proper legal form. It shall report the name and address of its chairman to the Council on World Service and Finance so the council may provide suggested meth-

ods, materials, and procedures. In a small church the duty of this committee may be assigned to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance.

13. Any other committees which the Quarterly Conference may determine to be necessary to its work, provided the same are in harmony with the provisions of the Discipline.

SEC. III.

Sundry Duties

¶ 146. The Quarterly Conference shall recommend or certify proper persons, as follows:

1. It shall, on application for issuance or renewal of a license to preach by a proper person, whose membership is within the charge, recommend such person to the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications (¶ 695), if in the judgment of the Quarterly Conference his gifts, graces, and potential usefulness warrant such action. Such person shall conform with all the provisions of the Discipline (¶¶ 306-7). The vote to recommend shall be taken by written, secret ballot, and the recommendation shall be signed by the presiding officer.

2. It shall recommend and send to the Annual Conference Deaconess Board credentials for young women who may become candidates for the office of deaconess. (See ¶ 1252 § 1.)

3. It shall certify proper persons to serve as **lay speakers**, and inquire annually into the gifts, labors, and usefulness of lay speakers on the circuit, station, or mission. Lay speakers shall be constituted by the Official Board of the church of which they are members and certified by the Quarterly Conference, the certificate to be signed by the president of the Quarterly Conference. The duties of a lay speaker are to conduct services of worship, to hold meetings for prayer and exhortation whenever opportunity is afforded, subject to the direction of the pastor; to attend all the sessions of the District and Quarterly Conferences, and to present a written report to the same. A lay speaker shall be subject to an annual examination of character in the Quarterly Conference, and a renewal of certificate, to be signed by the president thereof.

¶ 147. The Quarterly Conference shall determine the

amount accepted annually by the charge for world service and conference benevolences by the following procedure: As soon as practicable after the session of the Annual Conference, each district superintendent shall notify each pastoral charge in his district what amounts have been apportioned to it for world service and conference benevolences' (¶¶ 795-96). It shall be the responsibility of the pastor and the respective church lay leaders to present to a meeting of each local church in the pastoral charge a statement of the apportionments for world service and conference benevolences, explaining the causes supported by each of these funds, and their place in the total program of the church. Such presentation to each local church shall be made before the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge shall set the amount of its acceptances. The first or second Quarterly Conference may accept, increase, or decrease the amount apportioned for world service and conference benevolences (¶ 142 § 7). The amount voted by the Quarterly Conference shall be the amount assumed by the pastoral charge for this cause. Should the amount contributed during the year for world service and conference benevolences exceed the charge's acceptance, the entire amount so contributed shall be remitted in regular order to the conference treasurer before the end of the conference year (¶ 267 § 6). The district superintendent shall also notify each pastoral charge of all other amounts properly apportioned to it. The apportionments to the pastoral charge for the General Administration Fund, for the Episcopal Fund, for district superintendents, for conference claimants, and for the minimum salary fund are not subject to change or alteration by the Quarterly Conference or by the local church.

¶ 148. The Quarterly Conference shall fix the salary and other remuneration of the pastor, or pastors, after the following procedure: At the session of the Quarterly Conference next preceding the regular annual session of the Annual Conference, on recommendation of the Official Board or Boards and after consultation with the pastor, the conference shall set the minimum salary of the pastor for the ensuing conference year. In pastoral charges of more than one church, the amount apportioned to each

church shall be recorded in the minutes of the Quarterly Conference. The pastor's salary thus agreed upon shall not include the traveling and moving expenses of a new appointee to the pastoral charge. These expenses, when provided for, shall be classified as current expenses and so reported in the pastor's report to the Annual Conference. (See also ¶ 829.)

¶ 149. 1. Annually at the fall meeting of the Quarterly Conference the pastor shall answer the following questions, and the answers thereto shall be transmitted to the executive secretary of the Conference Board of Education, or, if there is no executive secretary, to the president thereof: (a) Who are the young people of this pastoral charge who are members of the senior class in high school? (b) Who are the young people of this pastoral charge who are members of the second year in junior college? (c) Has a list of their names been sent to the admissions officers of the Methodist college or colleges related to the Annual Conference for their information? (d) Who are the young people now in colleges, universities, and schools of nursing? What is being done by the local church to extend and maintain its ministry to them? Who of these are recruits for life service in a church vocation, and in what educational institutions are they enrolled? (e) What young people from this pastoral charge are now in theological schools, and in what school is each enrolled? (f) What young people from this pastoral charge are in the armed services, and what is being done to extend and maintain the church's ministry to them?

2. Annually at the first Quarterly Conference the following questions shall be asked: (a) How many persons have been received into the fellowship of the church on this pastoral charge during the past conference year? (b) How many persons will this pastoral charge set as a minimum number to be received on profession of faith this conference year, and what means will it adopt to win them? (c) What program has been adopted for assimilating new members into the life of the church, and training them in Christian living and activity? (d) How many persons signed Commitment Day cards, pledging

themselves to abstinence from the use of beverage alcohol? (e) How many supplemental or renewal commitments? (f) What are the plans for pressing the work in the area of temperance this coming year?

3. At each Quarterly Conference the district superintendent shall ask the pastor to answer the following questions: (a) What general Advance specials (¶ 759) and conference Advance specials (¶ 761) have been assumed by the church or churches of this pastoral charge, and in what amount? (b) What amounts have been collected on them during this conference year, and what amounts have been remitted to the conference treasurer? (c) What is the report concerning the observance of the Week of Dedication (¶ 760)?

¶ 150. In addition to the duties and responsibilities hereinbefore mentioned, the Quarterly Conference shall be charged with the following:

1. Through the Official Board as its administrative agent to supervise and promote the financial interests of the charge, including the support of the ministry, the payment of world service and conference benevolences, and prompt discharge of financial obligations for the building, repair, and general physical maintenance of the church houses and parsonage of the charge.

2. To promote all the spiritual as well as temporal interests of the church—evangelistic, educational, missionary, and benevolent.

3. To receive reports of the work of the pastor, other officers, and all the organizations of the church or churches of the pastoral charge, as the Quarterly Conference may determine.

4. To fix the place of the next session of the Quarterly Conference. (See ¶ 139.)

5. Such duties and responsibilities as the General Conference may from time to time commit to it.

SEC. IV. Authority Regarding Church Property

¶ 151. In a pastoral charge (¶ 104) consisting of one local church, the Quarterly Conference as constituted in ¶ 138 shall be vested with authority and power in matters

relative to the real and personal property of the local church concerned as set forth in ¶¶ 156-94.

¶ 152. In a pastoral charge (¶ 104) consisting of two or more local churches, a **Church Quarterly Conference** shall be organized in each local church therein, and such Church Quarterly Conference shall be vested with authority and power in matters relating to the real and personal property of the local church concerned as set forth in ¶¶ 156-94.

¶ 153. The following shall constitute the membership of the Church Quarterly Conference, in so far as the offices and relationships exist within the local church, these members being the same persons who are members of the pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference from the local church concerned:

1. The pastor and associate pastor or pastors; the retired and supernumerary preachers residing in that place who elect to hold membership therein; traveling preachers who, because they are assigned to special work, have been attached to the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge, and who are affiliated with the said local church.
2. The local preachers holding their membership in the local church and deaconesses appointed to labor therein.
3. The stewards of the local church, elective and ex officio, and the trustees of the local church; *provided*, however, that all lay members of the Church Quarterly Conference shall be members of the said local church, and all except the president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship or the president of the Youth Council shall be not less than eighteen years of age.

¶ 154. The district superintendent or an elder designated by him shall preside. The district superintendent shall fix the time and place of meeting. At his discretion he may call the respective Church Quarterly Conferences to meet at the same time and place as the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge to which the said local churches are attached; in which case he shall adjourn the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge, and shall call to order the respective Church Quarterly Conferences for the transaction of business specifically committed to

them, each Church Quarterly Conference sitting as a separate and distinct entity. Or the district superintendent may call a Church Quarterly Conference to meet at such other time and place as he may designate; *provided* that at least ten days' notice shall be given of such meeting. The actions of all Church Quarterly Conferences shall be recorded in spaces included in the "Minutes of the Quarterly Conference" (¶ 141) of the pastoral charge. This is for the purpose of permanent record only, and the Quarterly Conference of the said pastoral charge shall have no voice in the decisions of the Church Quarterly Conference of any local church attached to it in matters specifically committed to the said Church Quarterly Conference.

SEC. V. The Method of Organizing a Local Church

¶ 155. 1. When a local church is to be organized, the district superintendent shall, after a survey has been made and the need for a church is determined, recommend to the District Board of Church Location and Building (¶¶ 721-24) the site for the proposed new congregation. If there is a city or district missionary society (¶¶ 1218-20), that body shall also be asked to approve the site. (*See* ¶ 1227.)

2. The district superintendent shall call the persons interested in the proposed church to meet at an appointed time and place, or he may by written authorization designate any pastor in his district to call such a meeting.

3. The district superintendent, or the pastor holding authority from him, shall preside, and shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of the meeting. Following a period of worship (¶ 1930) opportunity shall be given those in attendance to present themselves for membership by proper certificates of transfer. Pastors issuing such certificates to a church not yet organized shall describe therein the proposed new church to which it is issued—as, for instance, "the proposed new church on Boston Avenue."

4. Opportunity shall also be given persons desiring to become members on profession of their faith in Christ

to present themselves for membership. When the presiding minister is satisfied as to the genuineness of their faith and purpose (¶ 107), they shall be received into the membership of the church in accordance with the prescribed form. (¶¶ 1914-15).

5. A list shall be made of all the persons received into the membership of the proposed church, by transfer and on profession. Those persons in the membership eighteen years of age and over shall be members of the constituting Church Conference, and each shall be entitled to vote.

6. The constituting Church Conference shall then be called to order, and it shall proceed to choose the elective stewards of the church (¶ 143 § 1), on nomination of a committee on nominations. Such committee shall be appointed by the presiding minister or elected on nomination from the floor as the conference may determine. In either case the presiding minister shall be chairman. When the elective stewards have been chosen in proper number (¶ 208), the presiding minister shall declare the church properly constituted.

7. He shall then adjourn the Church Conference and call to order the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge. The membership of said Quarterly Conference shall be the newly elected stewards and any others entitled to membership under the provisions of the Discipline (¶ 138). The Quarterly Conference shall then elect such officers of the church as the Discipline requires, including trustees of church property (¶¶ 159-60), and shall set up commissions and committees as provided in the Discipline (¶¶ 144-45). When such officers have been duly elected and the proper commissions and committees constituted, the church is duly organized, and from this point its work shall proceed as described in the Discipline; *provided* that when a newly organized church is attached to a circuit, the pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference shall not be held until such time as representatives from all the churches of the charge can be properly assembled for that purpose.

8. The Quarterly Conference may take action, at its discretion, authorizing and directing the newly elected trustees to incorporate the newly organized church in

accordance with local laws and the provisions of the Discipline.

9. For the presentation of a certificate of organization from the Annual Conference see ¶ 641.

CHAPTER IV

CHURCH PROPERTY

¶ 156. All provisions of the Discipline relating to property, both real and personal, and relating to the formation and operation of any corporation, are conditioned upon their being in conformity with the local laws; and in the event of conflict therewith, the local laws shall prevail.⁵

SECTION I. Authority of the Quarterly Conference

¶ 157. In a pastoral charge consisting of one local church, the Quarterly Conference, constituted as set forth in ¶ 138, shall be vested with power and authority as hereinafter set forth in connection with the property, both real and personal, of the said local church, namely:

1. If it so elects, to direct the Board of Trustees to incorporate the local church, expressly subject, however, to the Discipline of The Methodist Church (¶¶ 176-78), and in accordance with the pertinent local laws, and in such manner as will fully protect and exempt from any and all legal liability the individual officials and members, jointly and severally, of the local church, and the Quarterly, Annual, Jurisdictional, and General Conferences of The Methodist Church, and each of them, for and on account of the debts and other obligations, of every kind and description, of the local church.

2. To direct the Board of Trustees with respect to the purchase, sale, mortgage, incumbrance, construction, repairing, remodeling, and maintenance of any and all property of the local church. (See ¶ 165.)

3. To direct the Board of Trustees with respect to the

⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 93.

acceptance or rejection of any and all conveyances, grants, gifts, donations, legacies, bequests, or devises, absolute or in trust, for the use and benefit of the local church, and to require the administration of any such trust in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof and of the local laws appertaining thereto. (See ¶ 165.)

4. To elect the trustees of the local church, unless otherwise provided (¶ 32), in harmony with the provisions of the Discipline.⁶

5. To do any and all things necessary to exercise such other powers and duties relating to the property, real and personal, of the local church concerned as may be committed to it by the Discipline.⁷

¶ 158. In a pastoral charge consisting of two or more local churches, a Church Quarterly Conference, constituted and organized under the Discipline of The Methodist Church as set forth in ¶¶ 153-54, in each local church therein, shall be vested with authority and power in matters relating to the real and personal property of the local church concerned. Such Church Quarterly Conference shall elect the Board of Trustees of such local church in number and manner described in ¶¶ 159-61; and the duties of such trustees, duly elected, shall be the same as and identical with the duties described in ¶¶ 162-66. The duties, authority, and power vested in the Church Quarterly Conference, in so far as they relate to the property, real and personal, of the local church concerned, are the same as and identical with the authority and power vested in the Quarterly Conference of a pastoral charge of one local church as set forth in ¶¶ 157 and 167-94; and the authority, power, and limitations therein set forth shall be applicable to the Church Quarterly Conference as fully and to the same extent as if incorporated herein. The effect of the provisions for a Church Quarterly Conference is to give to each local church in a pastoral charge of two or more churches, rather than to the pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference, supervision over and control of its own property, subject

⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 130.

⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 103.

to the limitations prescribed in the Discipline with regard to local-church property.

SEC. II. The Church Board of Trustees

¶ 159. In each local church there shall be a **Board of Trustees** consisting of not fewer than three nor more than nine persons, each of whom shall be not less than twenty-one years of age, and at least two thirds of whom shall be members of The Methodist Church.

¶ 160. The members of the Board of Trustees shall be divided into three classes; and each class shall, as nearly as possible, consist of an equal number of members. At the fourth or final meeting of the Quarterly Conference for the Annual Conference year, upon nomination by the Committee on Nominations (¶ 145 § 1), of which the pastor shall be chairman (or if the committee fails to nominate, upon nomination of the pastor), or from the floor, it shall elect, to take office at the beginning of the ensuing conference year, to serve for a term of three years or until their successors have been duly elected and qualified, the required number of trustees to succeed those of the class whose terms then expire; *provided*, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the election of a trustee to succeed himself. Or the Quarterly Conference may determine that the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the members of the local church who are not less than eighteen years of age, at a meeting arranged and called for that purpose by the Quarterly Conference; *provided*, however, that at least ten days' notice of such meeting and the purpose thereof shall be given from the pulpit of the local church or in its weekly bulletin (¶ 32).⁸

¶ 161. Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees may be filled until the next annual election, as hereinbefore provided, by the Quarterly Conference in any regular or special session upon nomination by the Committee on Nominations, or by the pastor; *provided* that the privilege of making nominations from the floor shall not be denied.

¶ 162. 1. Within thirty days after the beginning of the

⁸ See Judicial Council Decisions 102, 130.

ensuing conference year the Board of Trustees shall convene at a time and place designated by the president, or by the vice-president in the event that the president is not re-elected a trustee, or, because of his absence or disability, is unable to act, for the purpose of electing officers of the said board for the ensuing year and transacting any other business properly brought before it.

2. The Board of Trustees shall elect from the membership thereof, to hold office for a term of one year or until their successors shall be elected, a president, vice-president, secretary, and, if need requires, treasurer; *provided*, however, that the president and vice-president shall not be members of the same class; and *provided*, further, that the offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. The duties of each officer shall be the same as generally connected with the office held and which are usually and commonly discharged by the holder thereof. The Quarterly Conference may, if it is necessary to conform to the local laws, substitute the designations "chairman" and "vice-chairman" for and in place of "president" and "vice-president."

3. Where necessity requires, as a result of the incorporation of a local church, the corporation directors, in addition to electing officers as provided in this paragraph shall ratify and confirm, by appropriate action, and if necessary elect, as officers of the corporation the treasurer or treasurers, as the case may be, elected by the Official Board in accordance with the provisions of §§ 212 and 268, whose duties and responsibilities shall be as therein set forth. If more than one account is maintained in the name of the corporation in any financial institution or institutions, each such account, and the treasurer thereof, shall be appropriately designated.

¶ 163. The Board of Trustees shall meet at the call of the pastor or of its president,⁹ at such times and places as shall be designated in a notice which shall be mailed to each trustee at least five days prior to the appointed time of the meeting. Waiver of notice may be used as a

⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 102.

means to validate meetings legally where the five-day notice is impracticable.

¶ 164. The Board of Trustees shall have such authority, powers, duties, and responsibilities as shall be vested in it by the provisions of the Discipline, and it shall be subject to the directions of, and be responsible to, the Quarterly Conference,¹⁰ and make a written report to the fourth or last Quarterly Conference, in which shall be included the following:

1. The legal description and the reasonable valuation of each parcel of real estate owned by the church.

2. The specific name of the grantee in each deed of conveyance of real estate to the local church.

3. An inventory and the reasonable valuation of all personal property owned by the local church.

4. The amount of income received from any income-producing property and a detailed list of expenditures in connection therewith.

5. The amount received during the year for building, rebuilding, remodeling, and improving real estate, and an itemized statement of expenditures.

6. Outstanding capital debts and how contracted.

7. Detailed statement of the insurance carried on each parcel of real estate, indicating whether restricted by co-insurance or other limiting conditions, and whether adequate insurance is carried.

8. The name of the custodian of all legal papers of the local church, and where they are kept.

9. A detailed list of all trusts in which the local church is the beneficiary, specifying where and how the funds are invested and in what manner the income therefrom is expended or applied.

¶ 165. Subject to the direction of the Quarterly Conference as hereinbefore provided, the Board of Trustees shall receive and administer all bequests made to the local church; shall receive and administer all trusts; shall invest all trust funds of the local church in conformity with laws of the country, state, or like political

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 108.

unit in which the local church is located; and shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church or by any society, board, class, commission, or similar organization connected therewith; *provided* that the Board of Trustees shall not violate the rights of any local-church organization elsewhere granted in the Discipline; *provided*, further, that the Board of Trustees shall not prevent or interfere with the pastor in the use of any of the said property (¶ 174) for religious services or other proper meetings or purposes recognized by the law, usages, and customs of The Methodist Church, or permit the use of said property for religious or other meetings without the consent of the pastor, or in his absence the consent of the district superintendent; and *provided*, further, that the Quarterly Conference may assign certain of these duties to a Building Committee as set forth in ¶ 180. (*See also* ¶ 278 §§ 5, 6.)

¶ 166. 1. "Trustee," "trustees," and "Board of Trustees," as used herein or elsewhere in the Discipline, shall be construed to be synonymous with "director," "directors," and "Board of Directors" applied to corporations.

2. "Local laws" shall be construed to mean the laws of the country, state, or other like political unit within the geographical bounds of which the church property is located.

3. Trustees or other members of a local church shall not be required to guarantee personally any loan made to the church by any board created by or under the authority of the General Conference.

4. Should a trustee of a local church or a director of an incorporated local church refuse to execute properly a legal instrument relating to any property of the church, when duly directed so to do by the Quarterly Conference (¶¶ 157-58), and when all legal requirements have been satisfied with reference to such execution, the said Quarterly Conference may by majority vote declare his membership on the Board of Trustees or Board of Directors vacated, and elect his successor for the unexpired term.

SEC. III.

Acquisition of Property

¶ 167. If the local laws do not prescribe that title to property, both real and personal, shall be otherwise taken and held, in which event the provisions thereof shall take precedence and shall be observed and the provisions hereof subordinated thereto, the title to all real property now owned or hereafter acquired by an **unincorporated local church**, and any organization, board, commission, society, or similar body connected therewith, shall be held by and/or conveyed and transferred to its duly elected trustees, who shall be named in the written instrument conveying or transferring title, and their successors in office and their assigns, as the Board of Trustees of such local church (naming it and the individual trustees), in trust, nevertheless, for the use and benefit of such local church and of The Methodist Church. Every instrument of conveyance of real estate shall contain the appropriate trust clause, as hereinafter set forth in ¶ 174.

¶ 168. Prior to the purchase by an unincorporated local church of any real estate a resolution authorizing such action shall be passed at a meeting of the Quarterly Conference, by a majority vote of its members present and voting, at a regular meeting or a special meeting of the Quarterly Conference called for that purpose; *provided*, however, that not less than ten days' notice of such meeting and the proposed action shall have been given from the pulpit or in the weekly bulletin of the church; and *provided*, further, that written consent to such action shall be given by the pastor and the district superintendent. (*See* ¶ 180.)

¶ 169. If the local laws do not prescribe that title to real property of an **incorporated local church** shall be otherwise taken and held, in which event the provisions thereof shall take precedence and shall be observed, and the provisions hereof subordinated thereto, the title to all property, both real and personal, now owned or hereafter acquired by an incorporated local church, and any organization, board, commission, society, or similar body connected therewith, shall be held by and/or conveyed

to the corporate body in its corporate name, in trust, nevertheless, for the use and benefit of such local church and of The Methodist Church. Every instrument of conveyance of real estate shall contain the appropriate trust clause, as hereinafter set forth in ¶ 174.

¶ 170. Prior to the purchase by a local-church corporation of any real estate, a resolution authorizing such action shall be passed by the Quarterly Conference in corporate session, or such other corporate body as the local laws may require, with the members thereof acting in their capacity as members of the corporate body, by a majority vote of those present and voting, at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose; *provided* that not less than ten days' notice of such meeting and the proposed action shall have been given from the pulpit or in the weekly bulletin of the local church; and *provided*, further, that written consent to such action shall be given by the pastor and the district superintendent; and *provided*, further, that all such transactions shall have the approval of the Quarterly Conference. (See ¶ 180.)

SEC. IV. Sale, Transfer, and Mortgage of Property

¶ 171. Any real property owned by, or in which an **unincorporated local church** has any interest, may be sold, transferred, or mortgaged subject to the following procedure and conditions:

1. Notice of the proposed action and the date and time of the regular or special meeting of the Quarterly Conference at which it is to be considered shall be given at least ten days prior thereto (except as local laws may otherwise provide) from the pulpit of the church or in its weekly bulletin.

2. A resolution authorizing the proposed action shall be passed by a majority vote of the Quarterly Conference members present and voting and by a majority vote of the members of said church present and voting at a special meeting called to consider such action.

3. The written consent of the pastor of the local church and the district superintendent to the proposed

action shall be necessary and shall be affixed to the instrument of sale, transfer, or mortgage.

4. The resolution authorizing such proposed action shall direct that any contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other necessary written instrument be executed by and on behalf of the local church by any two of the officers of its Board of Trustees, who thereupon shall be duly authorized to carry out the direction of the Quarterly Conference; and any written instrument so executed shall be binding and effective as the action of the local church. (See ¶ 173.)

¶ 172. Any real property owned by, or in which an **incorporated local church** has any interest, may be sold, transferred, or mortgaged subject to the following procedure and conditions:

1. Notice of the proposed action and the date and time of the regular or special meeting of the members of the corporate body, i.e., members of the Quarterly Conference, at which it is to be considered, shall be given at least ten days prior thereto (except as local laws may otherwise provide) from the pulpit of the church or in its weekly bulletin.

2. A resolution authorizing the proposed action shall be passed by a majority vote of the members of the corporate body present and voting at any regular or special meeting thereof called to consider such action, and by a majority vote of the members of said church present and voting at a special meeting called to consider such action; *provided* that for the sale of property which was conveyed to the church to be sold and its proceeds used for a specific purpose a vote of the members of said church shall not be required.

3. The written consent of the pastor of the local church and the district superintendent to the proposed action shall be necessary and shall be affixed to the instrument of sale, conveyance, transfer, or mortgage.

4. The resolution authorizing such proposed action shall direct and authorize the corporation's Board of Directors to take all necessary steps to carry out the action so authorized, and to cause to be executed, as here-

inafter provided, any necessary contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other written instrument.

5. The Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting shall take such action and adopt such resolutions as may be necessary or required by the local laws.

6. Any required contract, deed, bill of sale, mortgage, or other written instrument necessary to carry out the action so authorized shall be executed in the name of the corporation by any two of its officers, and any written instrument so executed shall be binding and effective as the action of the corporation. (See ¶ 173.)

¶ 173. 1. No real property on which a church building or parsonage is located shall be mortgaged to provide for the current (or budget) expense of a local church, nor shall the principal proceeds of a sale of any such property be so used. This provision shall apply alike to unincorporated and incorporated local churches.

2. A local church, whether or not incorporated, on complying with the provisions of ¶ 171 or ¶ 172, may mortgage its unencumbered real property as security for a loan to be made to a Conference Board of Missions, or a city or district missionary society; provided that the proceeds of such loan shall be used only for aiding in the construction of a new church.

SEC. V. Trust Clauses and Release Therefrom

¶ 174. 1. Except in conveyances from governmental agencies or subdivisions¹¹ which require that the real property so conveyed shall revert to the grantor if and when its use as a place of divine worship has been terminated, all written instruments of conveyance by which premises are held or hereafter acquired, for use as a place of divine worship for members of The Methodist Church or for other church activities, shall contain the following trust clause:

In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained as a place of divine worship of the Methodist ministry and members of The Methodist Church; subject

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decision 107.

to the Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises.

2. All written instruments by which premises are held or hereafter acquired as a parsonage for the use and occupancy of the ministers of The Methodist Church shall contain the following trust clause:

In trust, that such premises shall be held, kept, and maintained as a place of residence for the use and occupancy of the ministers of The Methodist Church who may from time to time be entitled to occupy the same by appointment; subject to the Discipline and usage of said church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises.

3. However, the absence of the trust clause stipulated in § 1 or § 2 of this paragraph in deeds and conveyances previously executed shall in no way exclude a local church from or relieve it of its Methodist connectional responsibilities. Nor shall it absolve a local congregation or Board of Trustees of its responsibility to The Methodist Church provided that the intent and desire of the founders and/or the later congregations and Boards of Trustees is shown by any or all of the following indications: (a) the conveyance of the property to the trustees of the local Methodist church or any of its predecessors; (b) the use of the name, customs, and polity of The Methodist Church in such a way as to be thus known to the community as a part of this denomination; (c) the acceptance of the pastorate of ministers appointed by a

bishop of The Methodist Church or employed by the superintendent of the district in which it is located.

¶ 175. Real property acquired by a conveyance containing either or both of the foregoing trust clauses (¶ 174) may be sold in conformity with the provisions of the Discipline of The Methodist Church (¶¶ 171-73) when its use as a church building or parsonage, as the case may be, has been or is intended to be terminated; and when such real estate is sold or mortgaged in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline of The Methodist Church, the written acknowledged consent of the proper district superintendent representing The Methodist Church to the action taken shall constitute a release and discharge of the real property so sold and conveyed from either or both of the foregoing trust clauses; or, in the event of the execution of a mortgage, such consent of the district superintendent shall constitute a formal recognition of the priority of such mortgage lien and the subordination of the foregoing trust provisions thereof; and no bona fide purchaser or mortgagee relying upon the foregoing record shall be charged with any responsibility with respect to the disposition by such local church of the proceeds of any such sale or mortgage; but the Board of Trustees receiving such proceeds shall manage, control, disburse, and expend the same in conformity to the order and direction of the Quarterly Conference, subject to the provisions of the Discipline of The Methodist Church with respect thereto.

SEC. VI. Incorporation of Local Churches

¶ 176. When so authorized and directed by its Quarterly Conference, the Board of Trustees of a local church shall immediately take and perform any and all necessary steps and actions to incorporate the local church under and in conformity with the laws of the country, state, or like political unit in which it is located. The necessary articles to be filed with the proper governmental officials to secure a charter, and any and all amendments thereto that at any time may be contemplated, shall be submitted to the district superintendent having jurisdiction for his

written approval as to the conformity of the same with the provisions of the Discipline of The Methodist Church, and shall contain the following provisions:

1. The corporation shall support the doctrine, and it, and all its property, both real and personal, shall be subject to the laws, usages, and ministerial appointments of The Methodist Church as are now or shall be from time to time established, made, and declared by the lawful authority of the said church.

2. The Board of Directors of the corporation shall be the Board of Trustees of the local church, elected and organized as prescribed in the Discipline of The Methodist Church.

3. The corporation shall have the power to acquire and hold title in fee simple, in trust, or otherwise, to both real and personal property, and to improve, incumber, sell, convey, and dispose of all such property in conformity with the Discipline of The Methodist Church.

4. Subject to the provisions of the Discipline, the corporation shall have the power to erect and maintain buildings for the worship of God, for training in Christian faith and conduct, and for Christian social intercourse, and to acquire or build and maintain residences for the use and occupancy of its ministers.

5. The by-laws of the corporation shall include the Discipline of The Methodist Church as from time to time enacted, authorized, and declared by its General Conference; and no other by-law shall be adopted inconsistent with the provisions of the Discipline.

6. The members of the corporation shall be the members of the Quarterly Conference, or such other body of the local church as the local laws may permit or require.

7. If, for any reason, the corporation shall cease to exist as a legal entity and its charter shall expire or be terminated, the title to all its property, both real and personal, shall be vested in the trustees of the Annual Conference, if the Annual Conference itself is unincorporated, in the same manner as it holds title to any other real estate, or in the Annual Conference in its corporate name if it is incorporated; and all such property shall be held in trust for the benefit of the local church.

8. Such provisions as may be required by the local laws.

¶ 177. The provisions of ¶¶ 159-66 hereof, entitled "The Church Board of Trustees," shall be applicable to all corporations formed hereunder as fully and to the same extent as if set forth and incorporated herein; *provided*, however, that "trustee," "trustees," and "Board of Trustees" shall be construed to be synonymous with "director," "directors," and "Board of Directors," as applied to corporations.

¶ 178. In the event that the title to any property, real or personal, of a local church shall vest in the trustees of the Annual Conference or in its corporate body as a result of the corporation ceasing to exist, then, and in that event, the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference, if the Annual Conference itself is unincorporated, or the Board of Directors of its corporate body, shall be and is hereby authorized and directed, at the request of the Quarterly Conference of the local church and without any action by the Annual Conference, to reconvey the title to the local-church property in such manner as shall be requested by the Quarterly Conference with the approval of the district superintendent.

SEC. VII. Building, Purchasing, Remodeling

¶ 180. Any local church planning to build or purchase a new church or educational building or a parsonage, or to remodel such a building if the cost will exceed ten per cent of its value, shall take the following steps:

1. It shall secure the written consent of the pastor and the district superintendent.
2. It shall secure approval of the proposed site by the District Board of Church Location and Building, as provided in ¶ 722.
3. Its Quarterly Conference (¶¶ 157-58) shall authorize the project at a regular or called meeting, not less than ten days' notice (except as local laws may otherwise provide) of such meeting and the proposed action having been given from the pulpit or in the weekly bulletin, and shall appoint a **Building Committee** of not fewer than three members of the local church to serve in the develop-

ment of the project as hereinafter set forth; *provided* that the Quarterly Conference may commit to its Board of Trustees the duties of a Building Committee as here described.

4. The Building Committee shall:

a) Estimate carefully the building facilities needed to house the church's program of worship, education, and fellowship and/or to provide a residence for present and future pastors and their families.

b) Ascertain the cost of property to be purchased.

c) Develop preliminary sketches, complying with local building and fire codes, which shall clearly outline the location on the site of all proposed present and future construction. (For provisions for architectural advisory service see ¶¶ 1235 § 2, 1237, 2117.)

d) Secure an estimate of the cost of the proposed construction.

e) Develop a financial plan for defraying the total cost, including an estimate of the amount the membership can contribute in cash and pledges and the amount the local church can borrow if necessary.

5. The Building Committee shall submit to the District Board of Church Location and Building, for its consideration and approval, a statement of the need for the proposed facilities, and the sketches, estimates, and plans specified in § 4 above, as provided in ¶ 723 § 1.

6. The pastor, with the written consent of the district superintendent, shall call a Church Conference (¶ 196), giving not less than ten days' notice (except as local laws may otherwise provide) of the meeting and the proposed action from the pulpit or in the weekly bulletin. At this conference the Building Committee shall submit, for approval by the membership, its recommendations for the proposed building project, including the data specified in §§ 4-5 above.

7. After approval of the preliminary sketches and estimates as provided in §§ 4-6 above, the Building Committee shall develop detailed plans and specifications and secure a reliable and detailed estimate of cost, and shall present these for approval to the Quarterly Conference and to the District Board of Church Location and Building,

which shall study the data and report its conclusions as provided in ¶ 723 § 2.

8. The local church shall acquire a fee simple title to the lot or lots on which the building is to be erected, by deed of conveyance executed as provided in this chapter (¶¶ 167-70, 174), and shall pay the purchase price thereof in full before beginning construction.

9. If a loan is needed, the local church shall comply with the provisions of ¶¶ 171-72.

10. The local church shall not enter into a building contract or, if using a plan for volunteer labor, incur obligations for materials until it has cash on hand, pledges payable during the construction period, and (if needed) a loan or written commitment therefor which will assure prompt payment of all contractual obligations and other accounts when due. (See also ¶ 271.)

¶ 181. On acquisition or completion of any church building, parsonage, or other church unit a service of consecration may be held (¶ 1932). Before any church building, parsonage, or other church unit is formally dedicated (¶¶ 1933, 1936), all indebtedness against the same shall be discharged.

SEC. VIII. Circuit and Joint Boards of Trustees

¶ 183. In the event that a circuit (¶ 104) shall own or acquire a parsonage for the use of the pastor appointed to serve the local churches comprising such circuit, or shall own or acquire any other real estate for any common use of its churches, the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge may elect a **Circuit Board of Trustees**, to be composed of not fewer than three nor more than nine members, all of whom shall be not less than twenty-one years of age; *provided*, however, that each local church in the circuit shall have at least one representative on the board. The members of the Circuit Board of Trustees shall be divided into three classes, and each class shall, as nearly as possible, consist of an equal number of members. Nominations shall be made by the Quarterly Conference Committee on Nominations (or, if the committee fails to nominate, by the pastor). At the

first election under the provisions hereof, one class shall be elected for a term of one year, one class for a term of two years, and one class for a term of three years; and thereafter, at the fourth or final meeting of the circuit Quarterly Conference for the Annual Conference year, it shall elect, to take office at the beginning of the ensuing conference year to serve for a term of three years or until their successors have been elected and qualified, the required number of trustees to succeed those of the class whose terms then expire; *provided*, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the election of a trustee to succeed himself. The provisions of ¶¶ 157 and 161-64 shall be applicable to the Circuit Board of Trustees to the same extent as if incorporated herein.

¶ 184. When two or more local churches compose a single pastoral charge having a parsonage, and one or more thereof is separated from such charge and established as a pastoral charge, or united with another pastoral charge which does not own a parsonage, each such local church shall be entitled to receive its just share of the then reasonable value of the parsonage in which it has invested funds; and the amount of such value and just share shall be determined by a committee of three persons, appointed by the district superintendent, who shall be members of The Methodist Church but not of any of the interested local churches. Such committee shall hear all interested parties, and shall take into account the investment of any church in any such property before arriving at a final determination. From any such determination there is reserved to each of the interested churches the right of appeal to the next succeeding Annual Conference, the decision of which shall be final and binding. Any sum received as or from such share shall not be applied to current expense or current budget.

SEC. IX.

Sundry Provisions

¶ 186. Two or more local churches may merge and become a single church by pursuing the following procedure:

1. The merger must be proposed by the Quarterly Conference of each of the merging churches by a resolution

stating the terms and conditions of the proposed merger.

2. The plan of the merger as proposed by the Quarterly Conference of each of the merging churches must be approved by a majority of the members of each of such churches, over the age of twenty-one years, present at a meeting thereof held in the usual place of public worship and called, for the purpose of considering such plan, by announcement made at a public service in such churches on two Sundays, the first not less than ten days next preceding the date of such meeting, and by written notice signed by the chairman and secretary of the Official Board of such churches, or otherwise, as the Quarterly Conference may direct (posted publicly in the usual places of worship of the churches contemplating merging), which announcement shall state the time and place of the meeting and the purpose thereof.

3. The merger must be approved by the superintendent or superintendents of the district or districts in which the merging churches are located.

4. The requirements of any and all laws of the state or states in which the merging churches are located affecting or relating to the merger of such churches must be complied with; and, in any case where there is a conflict between such laws and the procedure outlined in the Discipline, said laws shall prevail and the procedure outlined in the Discipline shall be modified to the extent necessary to eliminate such conflict.

¶ 187. When two or more local churches are united, merged, or consolidated, the Quarterly Conferences of the constituent churches shall respectively take action to consummate legally the same, and direct the respective Boards of Trustees with respect to the transfer or disposition of the property, real and personal, as the local laws and the Discipline may require.

¶ 188. 1. With the consent of the presiding bishop and of a majority of the district superintendents and of the District Board of Church Location and Building (¶¶ 721-24) of the district in which the action is contemplated, the Annual Conference may declare any local church within its bounds discontinued or abandoned. It shall be the duty of its Board of Trustees (¶ 190) to make

such disposition of the property thereof as the Annual Conference shall direct; and if no such lawful trustees remain, or if for any reason said trustees fail to make such disposition, then it shall be the duty of the trustees of the Annual Conference to sell or dispose of said property in accordance with the direction of the Annual Conference; and it shall be the duty of the trustees thus effecting sale to remove, in so far as reasonably possible, all Christian and church insignia and symbols from such property. In the event of loss, damage to, or destruction of such local church property, the trustees of the Annual Conference are authorized to collect and receipt for any insurance payable on account thereof, as the duly and legally authorized representative of such local church.

2. All the deeds, records, and other official and legal papers of a Methodist church that is declared to be abandoned or otherwise discontinued shall be collected by the district superintendent in whose district said church was located and shall be deposited for permanent safekeeping with the secretary of the Annual Conference.

3. Any gift, legacy, devise, annuity, or other benefit to a pastoral charge or local church that accrues or becomes available after said charge or church has been discontinued or abandoned shall become the property of the trustees of the Annual Conference within whose jurisdiction the said discontinued or abandoned church was located.

4. When a church property has been abandoned by its membership and no abandonment action has been taken by the Annual Conference, and circumstances make immediate action necessary, the Annual Conference trustees may take control of the property, with the consent of the presiding bishop and the District Board of Church Location and Building of the district in which the property is located. And in the event of the sale or lease of said property the trustees of the Annual Conference shall recommend to the Annual Conference at its next session the disposition of the proceeds derived from such sale or lease.

¶ 189. 1. With the consent of the presiding bishop and of a majority of the district superintendents and of the

District Board of Church Location and Building, and at the request of the Quarterly Conference, or of a meeting of the membership of the church, where required by local law, and in accordance with the said law, the Annual Conference may instruct and direct the Board of Trustees of a local church to deed church property to a federated church.

2. With the consent of the presiding bishop and of a majority of the district superintendents and of the District Board of Church Location and Building, and at the request of the Quarterly Conference, or of a meeting of the membership of the church, where required by local law, and in accordance with said law, the Annual Conference may instruct and direct the Board of Trustees of a local church to deed church property to another evangelical denomination under an allocation, exchange of property, or comity agreement; *provided* that such agreement shall have been committed to writing and signed and approved by the duly qualified and authorized representatives of both parties concerned.

¶ 190. The Quarterly Conference and the trustees or Board of Trustees of a local church shall fully comply with the instructions of the Annual Conference issued under the provisions of ¶¶ 188-89; and in the event of failure or refusal so to do, the trustees of the Annual Conference shall be vested with full power and authority to convey such property, and to carry out the instructions of the Annual Conference with regard to the disposal of the proceeds thereof.

¶ 194. The provisions herein written concerning the organization and administration of the local church, including the procedure for acquiring, holding, and transferring real property, shall not be mandatory in Central Conferences, Provisional Central Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, or Missions; and in such instances the legislation in ¶¶ 541-616 shall apply.

CHAPTER V

THE CHURCH CONFERENCE

¶ 196. There may be a **Church Conference** of any local church, composed of the members of such church who are eighteen years of age or over. It may be called by the pastor or the Quarterly Conference or the district superintendent; *provided* that not less than ten days' notice (except as local laws may otherwise provide) of such meeting and its main purpose shall be given to the members of the church in writing or from the pulpit or in the weekly bulletin. The pastor, district superintendent, or church lay leader may be its chairman. The conference shall elect a secretary, whose minutes shall be reviewed by the Committee on Records and made a part of the Quarterly Conference records. The conference may review the work of the church and adopt plans for the promotion of various phases of the church's work, subject to the limitations of the Discipline. (For special matters requiring action by a Church Conference see ¶¶ 155 §§ 5-7, 171 § 2, 172 § 2, 180 § 6, 189, 532.)

¶ 197. The Quarterly Conference may authorize and constitute in any pastoral charge an **Annual Church Conference**, composed of members of the church or churches of the charge who are eighteen years of age or older, in conjunction with the fourth Quarterly Conference. The district superintendent shall preside, or in his absence the pastor with the written consent of the district superintendent shall preside. The recording steward shall be the secretary of the meeting, or in his absence a secretary pro tem may be elected. The minutes shall be recorded in the records of the Quarterly Conference.

¶ 198. An Annual Church Conference thus authorized by the Quarterly Conference may review the work of the year, and receive the reports of the officers, committees, and organizations of the charge as arranged in the order of business of the fourth Quarterly Conference. The Annual Church Conference may also, when such authority has been specifically granted it by the Quarterly Confer-

ence of the pastoral charge, elect such officers of the charge as would otherwise be elected by the Quarterly Conference (¶¶ 32, 143-45).

¶ 199. The Quarterly Conference of a circuit, with the consent of the district superintendent, may authorize and constitute such an Annual Church Conference in any church of the circuit, subject to such additional qualifications as the district superintendent may specify.

¶ 200. If matters presented in the Annual Church Conference are restricted to the action of the Quarterly Conference, only members of the Quarterly Conference may vote thereon.

CHAPTER VI

THE OFFICIAL BOARD

SECTION I.

General Provisions

¶ 206. In every church of every pastoral charge there shall be an administrative body called the **Official Board**, hereinafter designated as the board; and it shall be the duty of the pastor and district superintendent to see that such organization is set up in every church as hereinafter set forth. The board shall be responsible to the Quarterly Conference, and shall report regularly to the sessions of the conference as its work and the occasion may require, and as the conference may request.¹²

¶ 207. The board shall be constituted of the following persons:

1. The pastor of the local church and duly appointed associate pastor or pastors, if any, and deaconesses, if any.
2. The stewards of the local church, duly elected (¶ 208).
3. The ex officio stewards of the local church (¶ 209).
4. The trustees of the local church (¶ 158), except such as may not be members of The Methodist Church.

All lay members of the board shall be members of the local Methodist church; and in nominating and electing

¹² See Judicial Council Decision 103.

persons to such membership the utmost care shall be taken that only morally disciplined persons shall be so nominated, with special reference to total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.

¶ 208. Stewards shall be persons of genuine Christian character who love the church and are competent to administer its affairs. The **elective stewards** shall be not less than eighteen years of age and shall be elected annually by the Quarterly Conference at the regular session next preceding the regular session of the Annual Conference, on nomination of the Committee on Nominations (¶ 145 § 1), or of the pastor if the Quarterly Conference does not constitute such committee; or they may be elected by the members of the local church eighteen years of age and older at a Church Conference called for that purpose as may be arranged by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 198). Stewards-elect shall take office at the beginning of the conference year following their election; *provided* that in cases where a steward is elected to fill a vacancy in the board he shall take office immediately after election. Vacancies may be filled by the Quarterly Conference, in regular or special session; under no circumstances shall stewards be elected by the Official Board. Each local church shall be entitled to not fewer than three or more than thirty-five stewards, exclusive of ex officio and honorary stewards; *provided* that in churches of more than five hundred members one steward may be elected for each thirty additional members.

¶ 209. The following officers in the local church shall be **ex officio stewards** during their respective terms of office, and shall exercise all the rights and privileges which belong to a steward in The Methodist Church: the church lay leader (¶¶ 143 § 2, 288), the director of Christian education or the educational assistant (¶¶ 143 § 9, 247); the church-school superintendent (¶¶ 143 § 7, 248 § 3); the chairman of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism (¶¶ 143 § 6, 220); the chairman of the Commission on Education (¶¶ 143 § 6, 231); the chairman of the Commission on Missions (¶¶ 143 § 6, 256); the chairman of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance (¶¶ 143 § 6, 262); the lay member and the first reserve

lay member of the Annual Conference if members of the local church (¶ 143 § 4); the president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service (¶ 282 § 5); the president of Methodist Men (¶ 291); the church treasurer or treasurers (¶¶ 212, 268); the president of the Young Adult Fellowship; and the president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship (¶ 244 § 4), or the president of the Youth Council if more than one fellowship is organized.

¶ 210. With the approval of the Quarterly Conference, any church or charge may provide for rotation in the office of elective stewards. In the event such rotation in office is proposed, a resolution shall be presented to the Quarterly Conference, for its action and determination, setting forth in detail the plan and the method proposed.

¶ 211. In each church the Quarterly Conference may make provision for the recognition of the faithful service of those stewards on the board who have reached the age of seventy-two, or who may have become physically incapacitated, by electing them honorary stewards. An honorary steward shall be entitled to all the privileges of a steward, except the right to vote.

¶ 212. The board shall be organized annually by the election of a chairman, a vice-chairman, a recording secretary, a treasurer or treasurers (¶ 268), and, when deemed desirable, a financial secretary (¶ 269) and a membership secretary. These officers shall be elected by the members of the board on the nomination of a Committee on Nominations. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

¶ 213. To the board is committed the administration of the affairs of the local church, both spiritual and temporal, as hereinafter set forth, subject to the authority of the Quarterly Conference as set forth in ¶ 206. The board shall meet monthly at a time determined by the board. Special meetings may be ordered by the board, or called by the chairman or by the pastor or by a majority of the membership of the board.

¶ 214. The board shall not deny or take from any organization in the local church a right or power granted it by the Discipline.

¶ 215. It shall be the duty of the board:

1. As the administrative agency of the Quarterly Conference, to promote and to have general administrative oversight of the work of the local church, both spiritual and temporal, under the direction of the pastor, including the receiving of reports from all the organizations of the church.

2. After consultation with the pastor, and after careful consideration of all matters pertaining to his efficiency, to recommend to the Quarterly Conference, at the session next preceding the Annual Conference, the salary of the pastor, and of the associate pastor or pastors, if any (¶ 148); and to make ample provision for the other financial needs of the church (¶ 261).

3. To promote through an educational program interest in all the benevolent causes authorized by the General, Jurisdictional, Annual, and District Conferences, and to see that the fourth Sunday of each month is observed as **World Service Sunday**, for the purpose of supporting world service and conference benevolences, co-ordinating the same with the observance in the church school.

4. In co-operation with the pastor and the church lay leader, to promote the program of lay activities (¶¶ 286-92), in harmony with the plan and program of the General Board of Lay Activities.

5. To arrange for a program of visitation of the entire constituency of the church, particularly strangers in the community and members of the congregation who may be ill or in distress. (See ¶ 222 § 7.)

6. Under the direction of the pastor, to plan and approve the program and work of the local church; to promote the spiritual and temporal interests of the local church; to discharge faithfully any and all duties and responsibilities committed to it by the Quarterly Conference or by the law of the church; to take such action as it may determine to be for the well-being and progress of the local church; *provided* that all such actions shall be in harmony with the provisions of the Discipline.

¶ 216. The board each year shall devote at least one full meeting, either regular or called, to planning carefully the local church's total program and deciding what can be done to make it more effective.

SEC. II.

Commissions

¶ 219. No local church, however small, is adequately and effectively organized unless there is set up a minimum structure for participating in four of the major concerns of the Church Universal—evangelism, education, missions, and stewardship. To the Official Board, in co-operation with the pastor, is especially committed the promotion and administration of these phases of the church's life and ministry. It shall be the duty of the board to give continuous leadership and oversight therein, through four commissions, duly constituted, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined (¶¶ 220-76): (1) the Commission on Membership and Evangelism; (2) the Commission on Education; (3) the Commission on Missions; (4) the Commission on Stewardship and Finance; *provided that*, when desired, a Commission on Worship (¶ 274) and a Commission on Christian Social Relations (¶ 276) may also be constituted for the promotion and supervision of these concerns of the church. Each commission shall be elected by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 144), or by the board if the Quarterly Conference fails to do so, and shall be auxiliary to the board. The pastor and the church lay leader shall be *ex officio* members of each commission. In addition to the minimum structure (the four mandatory commissions), every Official Board should organize, to carry out an effective program, such additional committees (¶ 278) as may be needed to effect a broad coverage of the manifold interests of the church.

SEC. III. **The Commission on Membership and Evangelism**

¶ 220. In each local church there shall be a **Commission on Membership and Evangelism** (¶ 144), which shall be auxiliary to the General Board of Evangelism and the Jurisdictional, Annual Conference, and District Boards of Evangelism. It shall be the duty of this commission to seek out the unsaved and the unchurched in the community, and to exercise all diligence that they may be led into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and into the fellowship of the church. It shall also be the duty of the com-

mission to seek out the inactive and negligent members of the local church, and to use all laudable means to restore them to active participation in the church's life and fellowship.

¶ 221. 1. The Commission on Membership and Evangelism shall be composed of not fewer than two lay men, two lay women, two young people, elected annually by the Quarterly Conference, and as many additional persons as the Quarterly Conference may determine; *provided that* all members of the commission shall be members of The Methodist Church. In addition the following shall be *ex officio* members: the pastor, the church lay leader, the secretary of spiritual life of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the chairman of the Commission on Missions, the church-school superintendent, the president of Methodist Men, the chairman of Christian witness of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and such members of the District Committee on Evangelism (¶¶ 1481-83) as have membership in the local church.

2. At the beginning of each conference year the chairman (¶ 143 § 6) shall call together the members for organization. The commission shall elect a vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers and committees as it may determine.

3. The commission shall outline its program and estimate its anticipated financial needs, including evangelistic and devotional literature and materials essential to carrying on its total responsibilities as outlined in ¶ 222, and present a request for the necessary funds to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance prior to the preparation of the annual budget.

4. The commission shall meet monthly in order to review and plan its work and receive reports. The chairman shall make a monthly report to the Official Board covering progress of the commission's work for the preceding month and plans for the future.

5. The pastor of a circuit may organize the several local-church commissions into a single commission, in which case its work shall be projected on a charge-wide basis.

¶ 222. To the Commission on Membership and Evange-

lism in co-operation with the pastor is committed the following specific duties:

1. To promote the total program of evangelism (¶ 1464) within the church and its community.
2. To take a religious census of the community periodically, if possible with the co-operation of the other churches in the community; and to seek the co-operation of the church school, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and other church organizations in making a list of persons from these and other sources who should be won to Christ and his Church.
3. To recommend to the Quarterly Conference a minimum goal of persons to be received during the year on profession of faith, and to work diligently toward the attainment of the same.
4. To promote the use of the recommended special days, weeks, and seasons for evangelistic purposes.
5. To use all laudable means to create an evangelistic spirit within the membership, and under the leadership of the pastor to assist in planning and promoting special evangelistic preaching services at least annually.
6. To promote attendance upon the public worship of God (¶ 97) and through friendly visitation, distribution of literature, and other means to lead indifferent members to active participation in the life and work of the church.
7. To arrange for the visitation of strangers in the community and those members of the congregation who may be ill or in distress, and those who are negligent in attending worship or in participating in the church's life and work.
8. To initiate and develop prayer groups, missions, retreats, vigils, and prayer fellowships.
9. To distribute evangelistic and devotional literature, and to use all means for acquainting the community with the church and its program.
10. To encourage private and family worship, and to promote the reading of the Holy Scriptures and the use of *The Upper Room* and other devotional literature.
11. To promote organized visitation evangelism during one or more periods each year, to secure new commit-

ments to Christ, and the transfer of Methodists in the community whose memberships are elsewhere.

12. To encourage such groups as the Fisherman's Club, Fellowship of Evangelism, The Twelve, or kindred organizations, and to co-operate with them in their work.
13. To assist the pastor, when requested, in training classes for church membership.
14. To co-operate with the Commission on Education and the Commission on Missions in organizing new churches.
15. To develop an adequate program for assimilating new members into the life and work of the church and its organizations.
16. To review annually the membership roll of the church and make recommendations to the fourth Quarterly Conference as provided in ¶ 125.

SEC. IV. The Commission on Education

¶ 231. In order that a local church may be so organized and administered as to provide effectively for the Christian education of its entire constituency, there shall be a **Commission on Education** in each local church (¶ 144). It shall be auxiliary to the Annual Conference and Jurisdictional Boards of Education and to the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education. In a small church the Commission on Education and the Workers' Conference (¶ 249) may function as one body except in the election of the officers and teachers of the church school.

¶ 232. The following persons are ex officio members of the Commission on Education: the pastor, church lay leader, church-school superintendent, division superintendents, membership cultivation superintendent, director of Christian education (or educational assistant) if any, minister of music if any, and church-school secretary. The Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men, and the Methodist Youth Fellowship shall elect one representative each to membership in the Commission on Education. In addition, members at large, the number to be determined by the Quarterly Conference, may be elected

upon nomination of the Committee on Nominations or the pastor after consultation with the church-school superintendent and the chairman of the commission (§ 143 § 6.) At the beginning of each conference year the chairman shall call together the members for organization. The commission shall elect a vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers and committees as it may determine.

¶ 233. The functions and duties of the Commission on Education shall be as follows:

1. It shall determine the policies for the church school as a whole and its parts, and shall give general direction to all the educational work of the church.

2. It shall study the educational needs of the church and shall provide for the organization, guidance, and supervision of the church school and of its three divisions.

3. It shall be responsible for counseling with officers and teachers regarding the literature used by the classes and departments of the church school, and shall see that the literature used is appropriate for each class and group, and that it is selected from the literature approved by the Curriculum Committee of the General Board of Education. It shall also be responsible for supervising the selection and use of audio-visual materials in the church school and the training of officers, teachers, and other workers in the use of these materials, and shall see that all audio-visual materials used in the church school are in harmony with the standards of the General Board of Education.

4. In order that the statistical records of church schools in The Methodist Church may be reliable and uniform, it shall follow the standards of membership, attendance, and maintenance of the roll which are established by the General Board of Education, and shall use the forms and record books prepared by the board.

5. Along with other official bodies in the local church, it shall encourage and maintain opportunities for initiative and expression on the part of youth as well as opportunity for adult counsel.

6. It shall perform the following other duties:

a) Enlist and train the necessary officers, counselors, teachers, and other leaders.

b) Elect certain officers and teachers as required by ¶ 246, fill vacancies in these positions, and, upon the recommendation of the pastor or the church-school superintendent, remove any officer or teacher for unsatisfactory service, habitual neglect, or improper conduct; *provided* that any officer elected or confirmed by the Quarterly Conference shall be removed from office only by the Quarterly Conference on recommendation of the pastor.

c) Plan the work of the church school by holding regular meetings of the commission and of all church-school workers, together and by divisions and departments. (See ¶ 249.)

d) Provide for the proper observance of the special days and occasions in the church year, giving particular attention to the special days that are authorized by the General Conference for observance in the church school. (See ¶¶ 250, 296.)

e) Provide study groups in marriage and Christian homemaking for parents and young people. (See ¶ 234.)

f) Inform the church-school members concerning our church-related institutions of higher learning, and Wesley Foundations and other student activities.

g) Plan the financial program of the church school, budgeting all church-school funds and giving careful supervision to expenditures.

h) Allocate space for departments and classes and control the equipment provided for the use of the church school.

¶ 234. The Commission on Education may organize a **Committee on Family Life**, composed of the three division superintendents and two other members of the Commission on Education, one representative each of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Methodist Youth Fellowship, the Young Adult Fellowship, Methodist Men, and the Commission on Membership and Evangelism, and others chosen because of their special skill and concern for the Christian family, which shall recommend to the commission plans for the family life education program in the local church and assist in carrying out the recommendations of the General Conference concerning family life (§ 2021). This committee shall be responsible to the

commission and shall report to its regular meetings. In a small church the commission may elect an individual **director of the family life program** instead of a committee.

¶ 235. Unless such a committee has been elected by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 145 § 10), the Commission on Education may elect a **Committee on Fellowship and Recreational Life**, composed of representatives of the Children's, Youth, and Adult Divisions and such other members as may be desired, which shall recommend to the commission plans for a comprehensive program of recreation, and supervise its implementation. In a small church the commission may elect an individual **director of recreation** instead of a committee.

¶ 241. In each local church there shall be a **church school** for the purpose of discharging the church's responsibility for instructing and guiding its entire constituency in Christian faith and living. The church school shall provide for worship, fellowship, study, and service, including social, recreational, evangelistic, and missionary activities, and education in the Holy Scriptures, the Christian religion, and the Christian Church.

¶ 242. In a community where there is need of a Methodist church school, one may be organized with the written consent of the district superintendent. The church school, when organized, shall be under the direction of the Commission on Education of the church organizing it; or, if organized independent of a local church, it shall be under the direction and supervision of the district superintendent.

¶ 243. The church school shall include the following activities and organizations: Sunday school; extended sessions for children; Sunday evening and weekday meetings of children, youth, and adults; nursery home roll; nursery schools and kindergartens; children, youth and adult home members; vacation church school; leadership education agencies; parent study groups; and the Methodist Sunday Evening Fellowship. Each local church shall have a Sunday school and such other activities of the church school as the Commission on Education, in consideration of the needs of the local church and the commu-

nity, may determine. When one has become a member of any one of these groups in the church school, he thereby becomes a member of the church school.

¶ 244. 1. The church school shall be organized in three divisions: **Children's Division**, from birth through eleven years; **Youth Division** (Methodist Youth Fellowship), from twelve through twenty-three years; **Adult Division**, twenty-four years and over; *provided* that older young people approaching adulthood shall be grouped in either the Youth Division or the Adult Division on the basis of their maturity, interests, needs, and social grouping in the community; and *provided*, further, that the General Board of Education may, at its discretion, modify these age provisions. In small churches each division may be composed of one or more classes. In larger churches each division may be divided into departments with classes in each department.

2. The Commission on Education shall follow the manual issued by the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education describing the organization of schools of various sizes.

3. Classes, departments, and divisions shall develop their work in harmony with the disciplinary provisions and with the standards established by the Conference and General Boards of Education. Each department and division shall include in its total program Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and such other meetings and activities as may be determined by the Commission on Education for the Christian education of the children, youth, and adults of the church; *provided* that the results shall be a unified or correlated program of work.

4. The youth of The Methodist Church between the ages of twelve and twenty-three inclusive, including all organizational units, shall be known as the **Methodist Youth Fellowship**. When one becomes a member of the Youth Division in a local church, he is thereby a member of this church-wide movement known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

5. Youth-serving agencies shall be included in the church school provided their program is a part of the

program of the church school and is under the direction of the Commission on Education and the pastor.

6. The Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Commission on Education shall co-operate in the missionary education of children and youth.

7. The secretaries of children's work and of youth work of the Woman's Society of Christian Service shall be members of the division councils for the age groups concerned.

8. The church lay leader, the presidents of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and of Methodist Men, the chairman of the Commission on Missions, and the leaders of such other adult groups as the Commission on Education may determine shall be members of the Adult Division Council.

¶ 245. When the needs of the children and the facilities and resources of the local church warrant it, the Commission on Education, on recommendation of the superintendent of the Children's Division and the pastor, and with the approval of the Official Board, may provide for a **through-the-week nursery school and/or kindergarten** as a part of the church school. In such case the commission shall be responsible for:

1. Determining the policies, program, and curriculum, and the conditions under which children may be enrolled.
2. Electing the teachers.
3. Providing for the physical safety of the children in accordance with local laws.
4. Recommending to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance a budget of financial needs, including teachers' salaries, materials, and equipment.
5. Determining a schedule of payments by parents for such service to their children.
6. Receiving regular reports of the school from its director and keeping permanent records of its work, leadership, and finances.

¶ 246. Great care shall be exercised in the selection of teachers, officers, and other workers in the church school. They shall be elected annually in the following manner:

1. The Quarterly Conference shall elect, to serve from

the beginning of the ensuing conference or church-school year: (a) the church-school superintendent (¶¶ 143 §7, 248 §3); (b) a membership cultivation superintendent and three division superintendents (¶ 143 §8); (c) a director of Christian education, or educational assistant, if desired (¶¶ 143 §9, 247). Interim vacancies shall be filled by the Commission on Education, the pastor concurring, subject to confirmation by the next Quarterly Conference.

2. Each class or group concerned shall elect, prior to the beginning of the church-school year or as need may arise: (a) youth officers in the Youth Division; (b) officers in the Adult Division; and (c) the teachers of adult classes, after consultation with the church-school superintendent. Teachers of adult classes shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission on Education.

3. The Commission on Education shall elect, prior to the beginning of the church-school year, all teachers, officers, and workers not otherwise provided for, on nomination of the church-school superintendent with the approval of the pastor, the director of Christian education, and the division superintendents. (See ¶ 233 §6b.)

¶ 247. On nomination of the pastor, with the concurrence of the Commission on Education, the Quarterly Conference may employ annually a **director of Christian education**, who, in co-operation with the pastor and church-school superintendent, shall direct the educational program of the local church in accordance with the standards of the General Board of Education (¶ 1401 §2). In the event the person so elected is not a duly certified director of Christian education (¶ 1451), he shall bear the title "educational assistant." Two or more churches may join in the employment of such a director.

¶ 248. In the educational work of the church the following relationships shall be observed:

1. The Christian education program of the local church school shall be the program set up and authorized by the Annual Conference Board of Education and the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education.

2. In the program of work herein outlined the pastor is, as elsewhere in all the work of the pastoral charge, the

preacher in charge, and is responsible for the total educational program of the local church. Nothing in this plan is to be construed as interfering with his authority and responsibility.

3. The **church-school superintendent** is the administrative officer of the church school. It shall be his duty to co-operate with the pastor and with the director of Christian education, if any, to stimulate, encourage, and help the other officers and teachers and to plan with them for the work of the school as a whole and in all its parts. He shall carry out the policies of the Commission on Education.

4. Under the direction of the Commission on Education the church school shall engage in co-operative enterprises with other Methodist church schools in the same district, and with schools of other communions, looking toward community betterment and community service and other Christian activities.

5. The Christian education of church-school members calls for curriculums which are graded and adapted to the needs of the pupils. The curriculums shall be based on sound educational principles and the universal gospel of the living Christ. Methodist connectionalism requires curriculums which contain the present Methodist traditions, purposes, programs, and movements. Each church school shall provide instruction in the curriculums approved by the Curriculum Committee of the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church.

¶ 249. To provide opportunity for fellowship, study, and discussion of the educational work of the church, there shall be held quarterly a general meeting of all the officers, teachers, and leaders in the church school to be known as the **Worker's Conference**. The chairman shall be the church-school superintendent, who, with the pastor, and the director of Christian education, if any, shall be responsible for planning the program of the Workers' Conference. There may also be meetings of the officers and teachers of departments in those church schools that are organized by departments.

¶ 250. The following special days shall be observed in the church school:

1. In order that the members of the church school may be informed concerning the world-wide service program of Methodism and share in its support, the fourth Sunday in each month shall be observed in the church school as **World Service Sunday**. An offering shall be taken in the school for world service and conference benevolences. This offering shall be sent with other offerings of the local church for this cause to the Annual Conference treasurer. The amount raised annually in the church school for world service and conference benevolences shall be reported by the pastor and recorded in a column so designated in the statistical reports of the Annual Conference.

2. **Church School Rally Day** shall be observed in each school for the purpose of emphasizing the importance of Christian education and for receiving an offering for the Conference Board of Education for the program of its local church division. The funds raised on this day shall be remitted as may be determined by the Annual Conference. These funds shall be recorded in a column in the pastor's report to the Annual Conference, but shall not be charged to the share of the Conference Board of Education in the conference apportioned benevolences. The fixing of the date of this observance shall be the responsibility of the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education, which may delegate this responsibility to the Conference Boards of Education.

3. **Race Relations Sunday** shall be observed in every local church on the second Sunday in February of each year. This shall be an occasion for creating better relations among all races and particularly for informing our people concerning the needs of Negro schools. An offering shall be received for the benefit of Negro schools related to the General Board of Education, due recognition being given to the historic responsibility of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for aid to the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (¶ 46 § IV).

4. **Methodist Student Day** shall be observed annually in every local church, preferably the second Sunday in June. If not on that date, it shall be observed on some other Sunday designated by the Annual Conference or the Commission on Education of the local church. On this

day emphasis shall be given to the work of higher education in church-related institutions. An offering shall be received for the support of National Methodist Scholarships and the Student Loan Fund for Methodist students.

5. Each local church shall observe **National Family Week** from the first to the second Sunday of May. It shall be the purpose of this week to focus attention on the importance of religious living. Ministers are urged to preach on the importance of Christian teaching in the home and the need for close co-operation between the church school and home and the use of religious literature in the home. Opportunity shall be given for parents to dedicate themselves to the teaching of religion in the home by precept and example. Because of the close relationship of the church school and the home in the teaching of children, youth, and adults, the promotion of the observance of National Family Week shall be the responsibility of the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education in co-operation with other boards and agencies of the church. The sole purpose of this observance shall be to strengthen family life in keeping with the resolution of the General Conference concerning the Christian home (¶ 2021). Therefore a special offering should not be taken in connection with National Family Week.

6. The first Sunday of National Family Week, or some other day selected by the Annual Conference, may be designated as **Children's Day**, for the purpose of emphasizing the responsibility of the Church for our children, the same to be observed without a church-wide offering. The program for such a day shall be the concern of the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education and the Boards of Education of the various Annual Conferences.

¶ 251. The Commission on Education shall organize and administer the church school in harmony with the provisions of the Discipline and in accordance with standards and procedures as set forth in the manuals for church schools of various types and sizes, which manuals shall be prepared by the Division of the Local Church

of the General Board of Education under the authority of the General Conference.

SEC. V. The Commission on Missions

¶ 256. There shall be organized in each local church a **Commission on Missions**, composed of not fewer than three elected members, and as many more as the Quarterly Conference may determine (¶ 144), and in addition the following ex officio members: the pastor or pastors, the church lay leader, the church-school superintendent, one representative each elected by the Commission on Membership and Evangelism and the Commission on Stewardship and Finance, the chairman of Christian outreach of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and the secretary of missionary education of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. It shall be auxiliary to the General Board of Missions and to the Jurisdictional and Annual Conference Boards of Missions and shall co-operate with these agencies in their plans and programs for missionary education and cultivation. At the beginning of each conference year the chairman (¶ 143 § 6) shall call together the members for organization. The commission shall elect a vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers and committees as it may determine.

¶ 257. It shall be the duty of the Commission on Missions:

1. To provide for the diffusion of missionary information, the distribution of missionary literature, the circulation of the general missionary periodical, and the use of missionary visual education materials in the church.

2. To plan each year, under the leadership of the pastor with the co-operation of the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Commission on Education, for a church-wide school of missions in order that the entire congregation, adults, youth, and children, may be drawn into a period of intensive study, using the study book and other materials issued or recommended by the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation and approved missionary materials for children and youth.

3. To co-operate with other agencies in the survey and

study of the needs of the community, and to recommend to the Quarterly Conference plans whereby the local church may undertake missionary projects for the purpose of Christianizing the total life of its own community.

4. To study the missionary program of the General Board of Missions and recommend to the Quarterly Conference and the Official Board such special projects, both home and foreign, as should be supported by the local church.

5. To co-operate with the pastor, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, church-school officers, and other organizations and agencies in the local church in all plans for the development of the missionary life and spirit of the local church, especially in programs and offerings for missions on fourth Sundays, plans for raising funds for world service and conference benevolences, and the support of missionary specials by individuals, organizations, and the whole church.

6. To confer annually with the Commission on Stewardship and Finance and the Quarterly Conference to the end that in setting up the local budget adequate provision shall be made for the benevolence causes of the church.

7. To co-operate with the pastor and the Commission on Stewardship and Finance in an effort to ensure an effective every-member canvass each year, with emphasis on stewardship and missions.

SEC. VI. The Commission on Stewardship and Finance

¶ 261. It shall be the responsibility of the Official Board to make proper and adequate provision for the financial needs of the church, including ministerial support (i.e., for the pastor or pastors, district superintendent, conference claimants, and bishops), approved items of local expense, world service and conference benevolences, other items apportioned the church by the proper authority, and all obligations assumed by the local church.

¶ 262. There shall be in every local church a **Commission on Stewardship and Finance**, which shall, under the authority and direction of the Official Board, promote and cultivate Christian stewardship and administer the

financial program of the church. The commission shall be composed of not fewer than three elective members, and as many more as may be determined by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 144). In addition the following shall be ex officio members: the pastor, church lay leader, director of stewardship, financial secretary, church treasurer or treasurers, and chairman of the Commission on Missions. At the beginning of each conference year the chairman (¶ 143 § 6) shall call together the members for organization. The commission shall elect a vice-chairman, secretary, and such other officers and committees as it may determine.

¶ 263. In the cultivation and promotion of Christian stewardship the commission shall function under the leadership of its director of stewardship, and in harmony with the directives of the General Board of Lay Activities in accordance with ¶¶ 1512-14.

¶ 266. In collaboration with the financial secretary or treasurer, and with the pastor and other proper officials, the commission shall each year set up a budget for the local church, and shall submit the same to the Official Board for its action and determination. It is recommended that the local-church expense and benevolence causes be set up separately, and that the people be given opportunity to subscribe to each cause.

¶ 267. When the annual budget has been approved by the board, the commission shall, under the direction of the board, proceed to ensure an income sufficient to cover the same, and shall administer the funds received according to the following plan, with such adaptations and adjustments as the board may determine:

1. There shall be an annual every-member canvass, by which all members of the local church shall be given an opportunity to make their individual pledges to the support of the church. Every member of a local church is obligated to support the entire program of the church. Pledges should be, as far as practicable, on a weekly basis, and in proportion to one's income.

2. Should the probable income appear insufficient to meet the annual budget, steps shall be taken at the beginning of the year to provide for the deficit.

3. All payments on pledges shall be credited to the donors, and a proper account shall be kept of each subscriber and contributor. (See ¶ 269.)

4. Funds received shall be deposited promptly in a bank approved by the board, and the account therein shall be in the name of the local church.

5. Funds received shall be disbursed as the board directs, and to the objects for which they are contributed.

6. Contributions designated for specific causes and objects shall be promptly forwarded according to the intent of the donor, and shall not be used, even temporarily, for any other purpose. When the budget of the local church has been approved, additional appropriations or items shall not be added thereto without the consent of the Official Board; and payments to no cause or item in the budget shall exceed the budget allowance except by order of the board.

7. As far as practicable, and under the direction of the commission, the treasurer shall prorate the income received each month among the respective items and causes represented in the budget, according to the proportional share of each; *provided* that the pastor's salary shall be excepted and given priority claim.

8. Report shall be made by the financial secretary and the treasurer or treasurers to the board each month, and to the Quarterly Conference when requested, of all receipts and disbursements, and of unpaid obligations against the budget.

9. It shall be the continuing duty of the commission to inform the congregation of the financial needs of the church.

¶ 268. The treasurer or treasurers elected by the board (¶ 212) shall receive and disburse all money contributed to causes represented in the local-church budget, and such other funds and contributions as the board may determine; or it may elect a treasurer to receive and disburse funds and contributions for local expense, and a benevolence treasurer to receive and disburse funds and contributions for benevolences and similar causes, in every case under the supervision and direction of the board. The treasurer shall remit each month to the conference

treasurer all world service and conference benevolence funds then on hand.

¶ 269. If a financial secretary is elected (¶ 212), he shall receive the contributions to the local church, keeping records of the contributors and their payments as provided in ¶ 267 § 3, and disburse them promptly to the treasurer or treasurers. If a financial secretary is not elected, the treasurer or treasurers shall assume these responsibilities.

¶ 270. The commission shall make provision for an annual audit of the records of the financial officers of the local church and all its organizations, and shall report to the Quarterly Conference.

¶ 271. No local church shall engage as a fund-raising agent any person or organization not in the employ of the Board of Missions, or of some other General, Jurisdictional, or Annual Conference agency, without first obtaining the written consent of the district superintendent.

¶ 272. No lottery, raffle, or other game of chance shall be used in raising money for any purpose.

SEC. VII.

Optional Commissions

¶ 274. A **Commission on Worship** may be constituted by the Quarterly Conference, as provided in ¶¶ 144, 219, composed of not fewer than three persons, and as many more as the Quarterly Conference may determine. In addition the pastor and the church lay leader shall be ex officio members. (See ¶ 1569 § 11.)

¶ 276. A **Commission on Christian Social Relations** may be constituted by the Quarterly Conference, as provided in ¶¶ 144, 219, composed of not fewer than three elected members and as many more as the Quarterly Conference may determine. In addition the pastor, church lay leader, secretary of Christian social relations of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, chairman of the Committee on Temperance (¶ 278 § 3), chairman of the Committee on World Peace (¶ 278 § 7), and chairman of the Committee on Social and Economic Relations (¶ 278 § 11) shall be ex officio members. The commission shall co-ordinate activities in the areas of social and economic relations, temperance, world peace, and community co-

operation. In addition to the chairman elected by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 143 § 6), the commission may elect a vice-chairman, a secretary, and such other officers as may be necessary.

SEC. VIII.

Committees

¶ 278. For the promoting of other interests and activities in the local church the Official Board shall create from its own membership and from the membership of the local church such committees as it may judge necessary, exercising care that these committees do not overlap or conflict with the committees of the Quarterly Conference. At least one member of each committee shall be a member of the board. Other members may be from the general membership of the church or from the board as the board may determine. Except where the Discipline provides otherwise, each committee shall elect its officers; *provided* that the chairman of each shall be a member of the Official Board. Each committee shall be responsible to the board, and shall report to the board regularly (and to the Quarterly Conference if requested). The board may create such committees as it may determine from the following list, and may add others as may appear advisable for the proper prosecution of its work:

1. The **Committee on Church Rolls**, which shall assist the pastor in acquiring and keeping an accurate record of the church's membership and constituency (¶¶ 131-32).
2. The **Committee on Nominations**, elected by the board on nomination from the floor, or by ballot without nomination, which shall nominate to the board the officers thereof, and the members of its respective committees. The right of nomination from the floor for officers and committee members shall in no case be denied. The pastor shall be chairman of the Committee on Nominations. (See ¶ 212.)
3. The **Committee on Temperance**, which shall promote temperance and kindred causes in co-operation with the General, Jurisdictional and Annual Conference Boards of Temperance (¶¶ 1521-34). It shall promote a vigorous program of temperance education in the local church, with special emphasis on the appeal that individuals pledge themselves to total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages.

It shall also, in co-operation with the pastor, promote in the local church the observance of Commitment Day on the first Sunday in December (¶¶ 296 § 2e, 1528). (See ¶ 276.)

4. The **Music Committee**, which shall encourage the use of suitable music in the worship service of the local church and, with the approval of the board, make provision for proper musical leadership.

5. The **Parsonage Committee**, which shall take proper action in co-operation with the Board of Trustees (¶ 163) to provide an adequate and suitable residence for the pastor. (See ¶ 145 § 7.)

6. The **Committee on Church Property**, which, unless otherwise provided by the trustees, shall have supervision of the maintenance and upkeep of the sanctuary and other church units.

7. The **Committee on World Peace**, which shall provide for the promotion of world peace, co-operating with the General Board of World Peace and the Jurisdictional and Annual Conference Committees on World Peace (¶¶ 1536-44), and for the observance of World Order Sunday, which shall be observed annually in each local church on the Sunday of or immediately preceding November 11. (See ¶ 276.)

8. The **Committee on Good Literature**, whose duty it shall be to call attention to the publication of new books of worth in forming and building the Christian life, arrange for exhibits of books and pamphlets relating to the work of The Methodist Church, promote the observance of Bible Sunday, secure subscriptions to *Together*, *The Central Christian Advocate*, and conference and area publications, and promote the use of approved publications in the church school.

9. The **Committee on Hospitals and Homes**, whose duty it shall be to promote in co-operation with the General, Jurisdictional, and Annual Conference Boards of Hospitals and Homes (¶¶ 1551-61) the interests of hospitals and homes of The Methodist Church and the particular hospitals and homes for whose support they are respectively responsible. This committee, on request of the pastor, shall have charge annually of the Golden Cross

enrollment and the dissemination of literature to assist in relating the congregation not only to the greater philanthropy of the church but to the social welfare organizations represented in the local parish and community.

10. The **Committee on Men's Work**, which shall promote the training and active participation of men in the work of the local church, under the leadership of the General Board of Lay Activities.

11. The **Committee on Social and Economic Relations**, which shall serve the interests of Christ in the local church in co-operation with the General, Jurisdictional, and Conference Boards of Social and Economic Relations (¶¶ 1546-50). (See ¶ 276.)

12. Other committees as the board may determine.

SEC. IX.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service

¶ 281. In every local church there shall be a **Woman's Society of Christian Service**. The following is the authorized constitution for such a society.

¶ 282. *Article 1. Name.*—There shall be a Woman's Society of Christian Service in the local church, auxiliary to the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service. A **Wesleyan Service Guild**, auxiliary to the Woman's Society of Christian Service, composed of employed women, may also be organized in a local church.

Art. 2. Purpose.—The purpose of the Woman's Society of Christian Service shall be to unite all the women of the church in Christian living and service; to help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church and improve civic, community, and world conditions. To this end this organization shall seek to enlist women, young people, and children in this Christian fellowship, and to secure funds for the activities in the local church and the support of the work undertaken at home and abroad for the establishment of a world Christian community.

Art. 3. Membership.—A woman may become a member of this society by giving prayer, service, and an annual contribution of money to the total budget through membership offerings, or dues, pledges, or gifts. She shall contribute to, educate for, and promote the total program of the women of Methodism.

Art. 4. Funds.—(1) All funds from whatsoever source secured by this society belong to this organization and shall be disbursed only in accordance with its constitution and by its order.

(2) The total budget to be secured and administered by a Woman's Society of Christian Service in the local church shall include pledges to missions to be directed through the regular channels of finance of the society and also funds for local church and community activities.

(3) All undesignated funds channeled to the Woman's Division of Christian Service shall be divided in the office of the treasurer of the division on a basis to be determined by the division. There shall be no division of such funds by the local society.

(4) Funds for local-church and community activities shall be secured and administered by the Woman's Society of Christian Service in the local church.

(5) Each society in the local church shall make an annual pledge to the total budget adopted by the conference society.

(6) Each society in the local church shall include in its budget a definite amount for a cultivation fund.

Art. 5. Officers and Elections.—The officers of the society shall be a president, one or more vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and secretaries of promotion, of missionary education and service, of Christian social relations, of student work, of youth work, of children's work, of spiritual life, of literature and publications, of supply work, of the status of women, a chairman of local-church activities, and such other officers and chairmen in charge of lines of work as may be required. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the society. The pastor shall be a member of the executive committee ex officio. Where a simpler form of organiza-

tion is necessary in a small church, there shall be five officers or more, as determined by the local society. These officers shall share the responsibility for promoting the work of the full quota of officers as listed in this paragraph.

Art. 6. Meetings.—The society shall hold one or more meetings during a month for the transaction of its business and for the study of the work.

Art. 7. Amendments.—Proposed amendments to this constitution may be sent to the recording secretary of the Woman's Division of Christian Service at least forty days before the last annual meeting of the division in the quadrennium. Proposed amendments may also be sent directly to the General Conference.

¶ 283. For a description of the Woman's Division of Christian Service and its subsidiary organizations see ¶¶ 1240-58.

SEC. X. Lay Activities in the Local Church

¶ 286. The Official Board, in co-operation with the pastor, shall be responsible for the program of lay activities in the local church as outlined under the direction of the General, Jurisdictional, Annual Conference, and District Boards of Lay Activities (¶¶ 1490-1515). In the program of lay activities the pastor is, as in all the work of the pastoral charge, the preacher in charge, and is responsible for the total program of the church. Nothing in this plan is to be construed as interfering with his general authority and responsibility.

¶ 287. The program of lay activities in the local church shall include the interests and causes that have been committed to the General Board of Lay Activities by the Discipline (¶ 1492).

¶ 288. There shall be a **church lay leader** in each local church, elected by the Quarterly Conference (¶ 143 § 2), who shall promote, in co-operation with the pastor and the chairman of the Official Board, the program of lay activities of The Methodist Church. If the board chairman is a layman, he may also be elected the church lay leader. He shall be responsible for the presentation of the

program to the board, for the adoption of plans necessary to carry on the work, and for continued leadership to make it effective. He shall make a report to each regular session of the board, and to the Quarterly Conference as requested. He shall also co-operate with the pastor in presenting benevolences to the congregation and in promoting the circulation of *The Methodist Layman, Together*, and *The Central Christian Advocate*.

¶ 289. The pastor of a circuit, with the consent of the Official Boards of the charge, shall organize the several Official Boards into a single **Charge Board of Lay Activities**, of which one of the church lay leaders shall be elected chairman. This board shall promote the program of lay activities on a charge-wide basis and encourage harmony and Christian fellowship among the churches of the circuit, to the end that the charge may render a more effective service.

¶ 291. The Official Board, in co-operation with the pastor and the lay leader, shall be responsible for organizing **Methodist Men** in the local church and encouraging them to secure a charter. The purpose shall be the development of the spiritual life of the men of the church and the attainment of the following objectives:

1. To seek daily Christ's way of life; to bear witness to this way in business dealings and in social contacts; to engage in some definite Christian service.
2. To study and become familiar with The Methodist Church, its organization, and its doctrines.
3. To promote personal evangelism, especially among men and boys.
4. To develop Christian fellowship in the church, especially among laymen, by promoting Christian understanding.
5. To co-operate with the pastor, district superintendent, and bishop in promoting the program of the church.
6. To co-operate with other units of Methodist Men in the promotion of district, conference, and church-wide projects under the leadership of the General Board of Lay Activities. (See ¶ 1518.)

¶ 292. In order to achieve the six objectives enumerated in ¶ 291, Methodist Men, as an organized unit in the local

church, shall plan a program of activities in which the following are given consideration:

1. Co-operation with the Commission on Membership and Evangelism in a program of personal evangelism, and in assuring that every adult male member of the congregation is visited at least once each year.

2. Co-operation with the Commission on Stewardship and Finance in the cultivation of Christian stewardship and assistance in the annual every-member canvass.

3. Co-operation with the Commission on Education in a program of youth activities, such as Scouting or 4-H Club work in those communities where this need is not otherwise met.

4. Co-operation with the Commission on Missions in some worthy project as an expression of Christian outreach.

5. Co-operation with other official bodies of the church in recruiting and assisting worthy young people in securing a Christian education.

6. Co-operation with the pastor to relieve him of some of the responsibilities demanding his time so as to release him for ministering more fully to the spiritual needs of the people.

7. Co-operation with the pastor and official bodies of the church in sponsoring a program of training in churchmanship, including the organization and doctrines of The Methodist Church.

8. Encouraging the reading of *The Methodist Layman* as the official organ of Methodist Men.

SEC. XI.

Special Days

¶ 296. The special days to be observed by local churches are as follows:

1. Days to be observed in the church or the church school with an offering:

a) **World Service Sunday**—the fourth Sunday of each month (¶¶ 215 § 3, 250 § 1).

b) **Race Relations Sunday**—the second Sunday in February (¶ 250 § 3).

c) **Week of Dedication**—the week culminating in the first Sunday in Lent (¶ 760 § 1).

d) **Methodist Student Day**—the second Sunday in June (¶ 250 § 4).

e) **World-wide Communion Sunday**—the first Sunday in October (¶ 763).

f) **Church School Rally Day**—date set as provided in ¶ 250 § 2.

2. Days to be observed in the church or the church school without an offering:

a) **National Family Week**—the first to the second Sunday of May (¶ 250 § 5).

b) **Children's Day**—the first Sunday in National Family Week (¶ 250 § 6).

c) **Laymen's Day**—date set as provided in ¶ 1493.

d) **World Order Sunday**—the Sunday of or preceding November 11 (¶ 278 § 7).

e) **Commitment Day**—the first Sunday in December (¶¶ 278 § 3, 1528).

f) **Universal Bible Sunday**—the second Sunday in December.

g) **Student Recognition Day**—the Sunday after Christmas.

3. Days to be observed in the church or the church school as ordered by the Jurisdictional or Annual Conference:

a) **Hospitals and Homes Week**, beginning with **Golden Cross Enrollment Sunday** (¶ 1559 § 1).

b) **Retired Ministers Day** (¶ 1610 § 6).

c) **Rural Life Sunday**.

PART III

THE MINISTRY

CHAPTER I

THE CALL TO PREACH

¶ 301. When a member of a local church manifests a desire to preach, it shall be the duty of his pastor to counsel with him concerning the opportunities and requirements of the ministry; and if the pastor is persuaded that he possesses gifts, grace, and promise of usefulness, he shall guide him toward qualifying.

[The following questions were first asked by John Wesley at the third conference of Methodist preachers in 1746. They have been retained ever since, in substantially the same words, as the standards by which prospective Methodist preachers are to be judged.—EDITH.]

¶ 302. In order that we may try those persons who profess to be moved by the Holy Spirit to preach, let the following questions be asked, namely:

1. Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire nothing but God? Are they holy in all manner of conversation?
2. Have they gifts, as well as grace, for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things of God; a just conception of salvation by faith? Do they speak justly, readily, clearly?
3. Have they fruit? Have any been truly convinced of sin and converted to God, and are believers edified by their preaching?

As long as these marks concur in anyone, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved by the Holy Spirit.

¶ 303. Women are included in all provisions of the Discipline referring to the ministry.

CHAPTER II

THE LOCAL MINISTRY

SECTION I. Local Preachers

¶ 304. 1. A local preacher is a lay member of The Methodist Church who has been granted a license to preach, or has been ordained, according to the laws of the church (¶¶ 306, 393, 403). He continues to be a lay member of a local church. His license to preach must be renewed each year (¶¶ 307, 320) unless he has been ordained.

2. An unordained local preacher has authority to preach and to conduct divine worship. For the authority conferred by ministerial orders see ¶¶ 392, 402.

3. A local preacher not serving a pastoral charge may assist his pastor, as requested by the pastor, subject to the laws of the church (¶¶ 308, 312).

4. A local preacher may serve a pastoral charge, either by temporary appointment (¶ 315 § 2), or by becoming an approved supply pastor, eligible for regular appointment (¶ 314).

5. A person must be a local preacher in order to become a candidate for the traveling ministry (¶ 321).

¶ 305. No member is authorized to preach without a license.

¶ 306. A license to preach may be issued as provided in ¶¶ 362 § 4, 690, 695 after the person has qualified by the following steps:

1. Secured the recommendation of his Quarterly Conference, as provided in ¶ 146 § 1.
2. Applied to the district superintendent in writing.
3. Appeared before the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications and supplied such information as the committee may require for determining his gifts, grace, and potential usefulness.

4. Passed the course of study prescribed for candidates for license to preach (¶¶ 1374 § 1, 2043), including Parts I, II, III, and X of the Discipline. This course shall preferably be taken under the Department of Ministerial Education.

5. Agreed to make a complete dedication of himself to the highest ideals of the Christian ministry with respect to purity of life in body, in mind, and in spirit, and to bear witness thereto by abstinence from the use of tobacco and other indulgences which may injure his influence.¹

¶ 307. A license to preach shall be valid for one year. It may be renewed, as provided in ¶¶ 362 § 4, 690, 695, on recommendation of the person's Quarterly Conference, and on evidence that his gifts, grace, and usefulness continue to be satisfactory and that he is making regular progress in the required studies, as follows:

1. A local preacher who is enrolled as a pretheological or theological student in a school, college, university, or school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate, or by the state accrediting agency, preparing for the traveling ministry shall present annually to the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications a statement of his academic progress from the school he is attending. This statement shall take the place of any formal examination, provided his academic progress and character are satisfactory.

2. A local preacher who is not a student as defined in § 1 shall pursue the four-year ministerial course of study under the Department of Ministerial Education (¶¶ 1374, 2045-48). (See ¶ 327.) The course must be completed within eight years after the date of issue of the first license to preach; *provided*, however, that this shall not apply to those licensed before May 1, 1956.²

For special provisions regarding local preachers who are approved supply pastors see ¶¶ 317, 320.

¶ 308. A local preacher, ordained or unordained, who is not serving a charge under a district superintendent, shall be a member of, and amenable to, the Quarterly Conference where he resides, except as hereinafter stated.

¹ Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 100.
² Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 100.

When he changes his residence, he shall procure from his pastor or district superintendent a certificate of his official standing and dismissal and shall present it to the pastor of the charge to which he has moved. If he neglects to do this, he shall not be recognized or use his office as a local preacher in the charge to which he has moved; and he shall continue to be amenable to the Quarterly Conference of the charge from which he has moved, which, if the neglect is long continued, after due notice (thirty days) may try him for persistent disobedience to the order of the church, and upon conviction thereof deprive him of his ministerial office and credentials.

¶ 309. A local preacher who is appointed to serve under a district superintendent shall procure from his pastor or district superintendent a certificate of his official standing and of dismissal, and shall present it to the Quarterly Conference of the charge to which he is appointed at its next session. His church membership shall be in that charge; and he shall be a member of, and amenable to, its Quarterly Conference, subject to the jurisdiction of the Annual Conference.³

¶ 310. When a full member of an Annual Conference is located (¶¶ 374-79), or an ordained member on trial is discontinued (¶¶ 321, 323), he shall become a local preacher with membership in the Quarterly Conference of the pastoral charge where he resides.⁴ When an unordained member on trial is discontinued, the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications may issue him a license to preach for one year, which may be renewed as provided in ¶ 307. A preacher who has been located or discontinued shall be subject to the provisions of ¶¶ 308, 312, 362 § 3, and 432 § 8.

¶ 311. Whenever a local preacher, ordained or unordained, severs his relation with The Methodist Church, the district superintendent shall require his license and credentials of him, and shall file them with the secretary of the Annual Conference.⁵ (See ¶¶ 994-95.)

¶ 312. A local preacher not serving a pastoral charge

³ See Judicial Council Decision 112.

⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 110.

⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 110.

shall make to the Quarterly Conference and the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, and to the District Conference on request, a report of his labors, as follows: (1) number of sermons preached; (2) number of funerals conducted, with the names of the deceased; (3) evangelistic, educational, and missionary work done in co-operation with and under the direction of his pastor; (4) progress made in academic work or in the prescribed course of study; (5) miscellaneous items. If he is ordained, he shall include in his report the following: (6) number of marriages performed, with the names of persons married; (7) number of baptisms administered, with the names and birth dates of the persons baptized. He shall report items 2, 6, and 7 to the pastor for entry in the church records.

SEC. II.

Approved Supply Pastors

¶ 314. An approved supply pastor is a local preacher, as defined in ¶ 304, who on recommendation of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications has been approved by the Annual Conference as eligible for appointment during the ensuing year as a supply pastor of a charge. The approval shall be based on compliance with ¶¶ 306-7, 315-17 and shall expire unless renewed on the same basis at the next regular conference session. It does not guarantee an appointment but merely certifies eligibility. An appointment made thereunder may be terminated at any time during the conference year by a majority vote of the district superintendents.

¶ 315. 1. A local preacher desiring to become, or to continue as, an approved supply pastor must have his character, fitness, training, and effectiveness passed by a three-fourths majority of the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications (¶ 695 §§ 3-4), and by the Annual Conference after reference to and recommendation by its Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications.

2. Between conference sessions a local preacher not on the approved supply pastors list may be appointed as a supply pastor. (See ¶¶ 362 § 3, 432 § 8.) If he fails to be approved at the following conference session, he cannot thereafter serve as a supply pastor until he is approved.

¶ 316. 1. On recommendation of the board the conference may approve annually students of other denominations enrolled in a school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate to serve as supply pastors for the ensuing year under the supervision of a district superintendent.

2. On recommendation of the board the conference may also approve annually ministers in good standing in other evangelical denominations to serve as supply pastors while retaining their denominational affiliation; *provided* that they shall agree in writing to support and maintain the doctrine and polity of The Methodist Church while so serving. Their ordination credentials may be recognized as valid in The Methodist Church while they are serving therein.

¶ 317. In recommending to the conference those who have met the requirements to become approved supply pastors for the ensuing year the board shall classify them in three categories with educational requirements as hereinafter specified. Every approved supply pastor shall meet the educational requirements of his category. Any preacher who fails to meet these requirements shall not be appointed by a district superintendent. The categories shall be as follows:

1. *Student approved supply pastors.* These shall be enrolled as pretheological or theological students, under the definitions and requirements of ¶ 307 § 1 and ¶ 316 § 1.

2. *Part-time approved supply pastors* (other than students as defined in § 1). Unless ordained elders, these shall complete at least two books annually in the ministerial course of study under the Department of Ministerial Education. (See ¶ 307 § 2.)

3. *Full-time approved supply pastors.* Unless ordained elders, these shall take the ministerial course of study under the Department of Ministerial Education and complete the entire course within eight years.* (See ¶ 307 § 2.)

¶ 318. 1. An unordained approved supply pastor, only while serving as a regularly appointed pastor of a charge, shall be authorized to administer the Sacraments of Bap-

* Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 97.

tism and the Lord's Supper and, if the laws of the state permit, to perform the marriage ceremony within the bounds of the charge to which he is assigned; *provided* that: (a) he shall have passed the introductory studies for the ministry (¶¶ 1374, 2044); and (b) each succeeding year he shall be enrolled as a regular full-time student in a pretheological or theological course in a college, university, or school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate, or by the state accrediting agency, or shall have passed one full year of the ministerial course of study looking to full ordination. Failure to complete one full year annually shall cause suspension of this privilege. In all missionary fields abroad the conferring of such authorization shall rest with the Central Conference in which the pastor serves.⁷

2. An unordained part-time approved supply pastor (¶ 317 § 2) who completes each year two books of the ministerial course of study, and continues until he is graduated from the course, shall be authorized, while serving as a regularly appointed pastor of a charge, to administer the Sacrament of Baptism and, if the laws of the state permit, to perform the marriage ceremony within the bounds of the charge to which he is assigned.

¶ 319. An approved supply pastor who is in charge of a pastoral appointment shall attend the sessions of the Annual Conference. (See ¶¶ 622, 645.)

¶ 320. When a local preacher is approved as a supply pastor, the Annual Conference alone has jurisdiction over his authority to preach. Continuance in this relation shall be equivalent to renewal of his license to preach. If at any time the conference declines to renew its approval of an unordained supply pastor, the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications may renew his license to preach for one year; further renewal shall be subject to the provisions of ¶ 307. (See ¶¶ 362 § 3, 432 § 8.)

⁷ Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 91.

CHAPTER III

TRAVELING PREACHERS

SECTION I. Admission of Preachers on Trial

¶ 321. The first step into the traveling ministry of The Methodist Church is **admission on trial** into an Annual Conference. A member on trial is on probation as to his character, his preaching, and his competency as a pastor. During this period the church determines whether he is worthy of becoming a full member of the conference. A person on trial may be discontinued without any reflection on his character.

¶ 322. A candidate for the traveling ministry may be admitted on trial by vote of the ministerial members of an Annual Conference on recommendation of its Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications after meeting the following conditions:

1. He must have a license to preach or have been ordained (¶ 304).

2. He must have been recommended in writing on the basis of a three-fourths majority vote of the District Conference or the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications (¶¶ 690, 695 §§ 3-4.)

3. He must have met the educational requirements (¶¶ 323-25).

4. He must present a satisfactory certificate of good health, on the prescribed form, from a physician approved by the board. The conference may require psychological tests to provide additional information on the candidate's fitness for the ministry.

5. He must file with the board, in triplicate, on the prescribed form, satisfactory written answers to such questions as the board may ask concerning his age, health, family, religious and church experience, call to the ministry, educational record, and plans for service in the church. The following questions shall be included:

(1) Are you convinced that you should enter the ministry of the church?

(2) Are you willing to face any sacrifices that may be involved?

(3) Are you in debt so as to interfere with your work, or have you obligations to others which will make it difficult for you to live on the salary you are to receive?

(4) If you are married, is your wife or husband in sympathy with your ministerial calling and willing to share in the sacrifices of your vocation?

(5) Are you willing to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian ministry with respect to purity of life in body, in mind, and in spirit, and to bear witness thereto by abstinence from the use of tobacco and other indulgences which may injure your influence.⁸

(6) Will you keep before you as the one great objective of your life the advancement of God's Kingdom?

¶ 323. A candidate for admission on trial must (1) have been graduated with a bachelor of arts or equivalent degree in liberal education in a college or university accredited or approved by the University Senate, and (2) have completed at least one fourth of the work required for a bachelor of divinity or equivalent degree in a school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate, except under the special conditions of ¶ 325.

¶ 324. Any Annual Conference may designate a bachelor of divinity or equivalent degree from a school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate as the minimum educational requirement for admission on trial into that conference.

¶ 325. Under special conditions an Annual Conference may, by a three-fourths majority vote, admit a candidate on trial in the following exceptional cases:

1. If he is a graduate with a bachelor of arts or equivalent degree in liberal education from a college not accredited by the University Senate who has completed one fourth of the work required for the bachelor of divinity or equivalent degree in a school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate. (See ¶¶ 330, 342.)

⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 111.

2. If he is a graduate with a bachelor of arts or equivalent degree in liberal education from a college accredited or approved by the University Senate, and has completed satisfactorily the introductory studies for the ministry (¶¶ 1374, 2044). (See ¶ 327.)

3. If he is an approved supply pastor over thirty-five years of age who has (1) earned sixty semester hours of college credit,⁹ (2) completed the four-year ministerial course of study (¶¶ 1374, 2045-48), (3) served as an approved supply pastor in an Annual Conference for six consecutive years, and (4) been recommended by a three-fourths vote of the Cabinet and a three-fourths vote of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, written statements of such recommendations having been read to the conference before the vote is taken, setting forth the particular ways his ministry is exceptional and the special reasons he should be admitted on trial. (See ¶¶ 330, 343 § 2.)

¶ 326. The Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications shall require a transcript of credits from each applicant before recognizing any of his educational claims.

¶ 327. A preacher who discontinues his theological education may request that the Department of Ministerial Education evaluate his theological work for credit in the ministerial course of study. He shall be exempted from any portion of the introductory studies or the four-year course for which he has already completed equivalent work in a school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate provided the department shall have examined an official transcript thereof and certified it as equivalent.

¶ 328. While a member is on trial, the Annual Conference alone has jurisdiction over his authority to preach. His continuance on trial shall be equivalent to the renewal of his license to preach. If he be discontinued, he becomes a local preacher. (See ¶ 310.)

¶ 329. An unordained member on trial who is regularly

⁹ In raising this requirement the General Conference of 1956 provided that where a commitment had already been made on the basis of thirty semester hours the new requirement should not take effect until after the Annual Conference session of 1958.

appointed to a pastoral charge without an ordained colleague is subject to the provisions of ¶ 318 § 1.

¶ 330. To be continued as a member on trial, the candidate shall make regular progress in his ministerial studies. In case of failure or delay, the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications shall investigate the circumstances and judge whether to extend the time, within the following limits: (a) for completing the theological course for the bachelor of divinity or equivalent degree, a total of eight years; (b) for completing the first two years of the ministerial course of study, a total of four years; (c) for completing the entire course of study, a total of six years; (d) for completing the two years of special study required of a candidate admitted under the conditions of ¶ 325 § 3 (see ¶ 343 § 2), a total of three years. In a case clearly recognized as exceptional the board by a three-fourths vote may recommend an extension beyond these limits, which may be approved by a three-fourths vote of the Annual Conference; *provided* that, in any case, a candidate admitted under the terms of ¶ 325 § 3 shall not be continued on trial beyond the fourth regular conference session following his admission, and any other candidate shall not be continued on trial beyond the eighth regular conference session following his admission.

¶ 331. The educational standards and other requirements for admission shall be set by the Jurisdictional Conferences for the bilingual Annual and Provisional Annual Conferences within their territories, by the Central and Provisional Central Conferences for the Annual and Provisional Annual Conferences within their territories, and outside such territories by the Annual or Provisional Annual Conference itself.

Sec. II. Admission into Full Connection

¶ 341. A member on trial may be admitted into full connection in an Annual Conference by vote of its ministerial members, on recommendation of its Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, provided he shall have: (a) served under regular appointment under the supervision of a district superintendent in one of the positions specified in ¶ 432 §§ 1-6 for at least two years

since being admitted on trial; (b) been elected to deacon's orders (¶ 393); (c) fulfilled the educational requirements of ¶¶ 342-44; (d) satisfied the board regarding his physical, mental, and emotional health, by repeating the examination and tests described in ¶ 322 § 4 if so requested; (e) given satisfactory answers to the questions listed in ¶ 345.¹⁰

¶ 342. A candidate for admission into full connection must have been graduated with a bachelor of divinity or equivalent degree in a school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate, except under the special conditions of ¶ 343, and have completed two semester hours in Methodist history, polity, and doctrine or their equivalent as provided in ¶ 344. A candidate who was admitted on trial under the terms of ¶ 325 § 1 shall meet these requirements without exception.

¶ 343. 1. A candidate who was admitted on trial under the terms of ¶ 325 § 2 may meet the educational requirements for admission into full connection by completing the entire four-year ministerial course of study. (See ¶ 327.)

2. A candidate who was admitted on trial under the terms of ¶ 325 § 3 may meet the educational requirements for admission into full connection by completing two years of special study by correspondence under the direction of the Department of Ministerial Education.

3. Under conditions regarded as exceptional an Annual Conference may admit into full connection as provided in ¶ 341 a candidate otherwise qualified who, having discontinued his theological education subsequent to meeting the requirements of ¶ 323 for admission on trial, has completed all of the four-year ministerial course of study not covered by his theological work as provided in ¶ 327.

¶ 344. Any candidate for admission into full connection on the basis of a bachelor of divinity or equivalent degree whose transcript does not show the equivalent of two semester hours of credit in Methodist history, polity, and doctrine shall be required to pass examinations in these subjects, administered by the Board of Ministerial Train-

¹⁰ Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decisions 49, 122.

ing and Qualifications in accordance with the standards established by the Department of Ministerial Education.

Examination for Admission into Full Connection

[Here follow the questions which every Methodist preacher from the beginning has been required to answer upon becoming a full member of a conference. These questions were formulated by John Wesley and have been little changed throughout the years.—EDITOR.]

¶ 345. A preacher seeking admission into full connection in the conference shall, after solemn fasting and prayer, be asked, before the conference, the following questions, with any others which may be thought necessary, namely:

- (1) Have you faith in Christ?
- (2) Are you going on to perfection?
- (3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
- (4) Are you earnestly striving after it?
- (5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?
- (6) Do you know the General Rules of our church?
- (7) Will you keep them?
- (8) Have you studied the doctrines of The Methodist Church?
- (9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
- (10) Will you preach and maintain them?
- (11) Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity?
- (12) Do you approve our church government and polity?
- (13) Will you support and maintain them?
- (14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
- (15) Will you visit from house to house?
- (16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
- (17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?¹¹

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decision 82.

(18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?

(19) Will you observe the following directions?

(a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.

(b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

SEC. III.

Pastors

¶ 351. A pastor is a preacher who, by appointment of the bishop or the district superintendent, is in charge of a station or circuit.

¶ 352. The duties of a pastor are:

1. To preach the gospel.
2. To administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to perform the marriage ceremony, and to bury the dead, according to the Discipline. (See ¶¶ 318, 329.)
3. To visit from house to house in order to give pastoral guidance and oversight to the members of the church and others in need of a pastor's help.
4. To instruct candidates for membership in the church in the doctrines, rules, and regulations of the church; to receive persons into membership; to receive and dismiss members by certificate.
5. To form classes of the children, youth, and adults for instruction in the Word of God, and to perform the duties prescribed for the training of children.
6. To instruct youth in the problems involved in marriage with a member of a church which demands that the children of such marriage be reared in the faith of that church.
7. To organize and maintain church schools, Woman's Societies of Christian Service, young people's organizations, and organizations of Methodist Men.
8. To hold or appoint prayer meetings, love feasts, and watch-night meetings, wherever advisable.
9. To have the oversight of the other preachers in his pastoral charge; and to arrange the appointments, wherever practicable, so as to give the local preachers regular employment on the Sabbath.
10. To see that class leaders are chosen, and to change

them when necessary, and to examine each of them concerning his method of leading a class.

11. To administer all the provisions of the Discipline in his pastoral charge.

12. To see that the ordinances and regulations of the church are duly observed and that the General Rules are read and explained once a year in each congregation.

13. In the absence of the district superintendent and the bishop, to control the appointment of all services to be held in the churches in his charge.

14. To hold Quarterly Conferences, at the request of the district superintendent, and to serve as chairman of the Official Board, unless a chairman has been elected by the Official Board.

15. To explain the meaning and importance of the benevolences, and to urge their support by all the people in his charge.

16. To preach on the subject of missions and to nominate at the fourth Quarterly Conference, in case such nomination is not made by the Nominating Committee, a Commission on Missions and a chairman thereof for each congregation. (¶ 256.)

17. To preach on the subject of Christian education, and to urge upon parents the importance of educating their children, advising them to patronize the institutions of learning of our church.

18. To see that the people in the bounds of his charge are supplied with our church literature, including books, periodicals, and church-school literature.

19. To teach and preach on Christian stewardship, temperance, and world peace, and to promote these causes within the bounds of his charge.

20. To preach on the meaning of Christian vocation and the call and challenge of the ministry and other types of full-time church work, and to advise with youth, students, and young adults about their educational and vocational plans. (See ¶ 149 § 1.)

21. To preach on the subject of the Bible and its circulation.

22. To make a written report to each Quarterly Conference on the following items:

a) The general state of the church in his charge.

b) The names of all who have been received into the church, with the method of reception indicated, and of all who have died, removed, withdrawn, or been expelled during the preceding quarter.

c) Number and condition of church schools, including Sunday-school meetings, weekday meetings of children, meetings of young people, fellowship meetings of adults, and vacation schools.

d) Number of sermons preached to children.

e) Other religious instruction conducted, with children and adults, including training classes.

f) Number of pastoral visits, and the use of the church-school roll-in pastoral visitation.

g) Subscribers to our church periodicals.

h) Collections for benevolences.

i) Missions, including Woman's Societies of Christian Service, church extension, and missionary education in the church school.

j) Lay activities, including the financial system, lay speaking, training of the Official Board or Boards, Christian stewardship, and Methodist Men.

k) Other items worthy of record.

l) Plans for future work.

23. To keep a membership record for his charge in which shall be noted the name, with the time and manner of reception and disposal, of every member of the church, including the names of preparatory members in a separate list. (See ¶¶ 131-32.) In churches containing more than one organized congregation, the names of the members shall be arranged under the name of the church to which they belong.

24. To keep a permanent record of all baptisms and marriages in the bounds of his charge.

25. To keep and transmit to his successor two directories, the one in which the residences of all the members shall be recorded, and the other a constituency roll.

26. To furnish to every person uniting with the church on profession of faith, or from preparatory membership, a certificate of membership.

27. To leave to his successor an account of his charge,

including a list of subscribers to the benevolences and to our periodicals.

28. To make report to the Annual Conference of all items required for the statistics of the conference, and to deliver to the conference treasurer all moneys raised for benevolent causes, or satisfactory vouchers for the same, using the forms supplied by The Methodist Publishing House.

¶ 353. No pastor shall engage for an evangelist any person who is not a conference evangelist, a regular member of an Annual Conference, an approved supply pastor, a local preacher, or a lay speaker in good standing in The Methodist Church without first obtaining the written consent of his district superintendent. (See ¶¶ 363, 1474, 1480.)

¶ 354. No pastor shall discontinue a preaching place in the interval between sessions of the Annual Conference without the consent of the Quarterly Conference and the district superintendent. (See ¶¶ 126, 188.)

¶ 355. In planning to perform the rite of matrimony the minister is advised to have an unhurried premarital conference with the parties to be married. It is strongly urged that the minister have this conference at least several days before the date of the wedding, and that the minister advise and instruct to the best of his ability to the end that the parties to be married become soberly aware that successful marriage is dependent on those spiritual qualities which are best nurtured and kept alive by a constant sense of loyalty to God and to God's organized Church.

¶ 356. No minister shall solemnize the marriage of a divorced person whose wife or husband is living and unmarried; but this rule shall not apply (1) to the innocent person when it is clearly established by competent testimony that the true cause for divorce was adultery or other vicious conditions which through mental or physical cruelty or physical peril invalidated the marriage vow, nor (2) to the divorced persons seeking to be reunited in marriage. The violation of this rule concerning divorce shall be considered an act of maladministration.

SEC. IV.

District Superintendents

¶ 361. District superintendents are to be chosen and appointed by the bishop. (See ¶ 432 § 3.)

¶ 362. The duties of a district superintendent are:

1. To travel through his district, in order to preach and to oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church.

2. In the absence of a bishop to have charge of all the traveling and local preachers in his district.

3. To change, receive, or appoint preachers during the intervals between conferences and in the absence of the bishop, as the Discipline directs; *provided* that he shall not appoint any preacher who has been rejected as an applicant, or who has been discontinued or located, except at his own request, unless the conference at the time of such rejection, discontinuance, or location shall grant such authority; and he shall not appoint any preacher who has previously been expelled from the ministry, or has surrendered his credentials to an Annual Conference, unless the conference to which he surrendered his credentials, or from which he was expelled, restores his credentials, or recommends him; and he shall not appoint any local preacher who is not listed as an approved supply pastor, except between sessions of the Annual Conference, and then only until its next session.

4. To issue and renew licenses for local preachers in accordance with the action of the District Conference or District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications; and to furnish certified lists of the persons licensed and their addresses to the Department of Ministerial Education and to the secretary of the Annual Conference for insertion in the conference journal.

5. To preside, or to designate elders to preside, in the Quarterly Conferences of each pastoral charge, and to preside at the District Conference.

6. To take care that every part of the Discipline is observed in his district.

7. To see that all charters, deeds, and other conveyances of church property in his district conform to the Discipline and to the laws, usages, and forms of the

county, state, territory, or country within which such property is situated.

8. To counsel with the pastors in his district in regard to their pastoral responsibilities and other matters affecting their ministry.

9. To advise and encourage local preachers, candidates for the ministry, and conference undergraduates in their studies.

10. To report the names and addresses of the church lay leaders in his district to the secretary of the Annual Conference for insertion in the conference journal; to report the names and addresses of all candidates for the ministry to the Department of Ministerial Education; and to report the names and addresses of commission and committee chairmen, church-school superintendents, and church lay leaders elected by each Quarterly Conference in his district as may be requested by any general agency supplying report forms therefor.

11. To prepare and deliver to his successor, and to the conference secretary, to be permanently recorded by him: (a) a list of all abandoned church properties and cemeteries within the bounds of his district; (b) a list of all church properties being permissively used by other religious organizations with the names of the local trustees thereof; (c) a list of all endowments, annuities, trust funds, investments, and unpaid legacies of which he has knowledge belonging to any pastoral charge or organization connected therewith in his district.

12. To report annually to the Annual Conference an accurate record of all financial transactions pertaining to abandoned properties.

13. To procure statistics from every charge and report them to the Annual Conference, in case the pastor should fail to make report; and to have the records of his District Conference at the Annual Conference for examination.

14. To decide all questions of law which may arise in the business of the Quarterly or District Conference, when submitted to him in writing, subject to an appeal to the president of the next Annual Conference.¹²

¹² See Judicial Council Decisions 29, 52.

15. To promote all the interests of the church within the bounds of his district, in co-operation with the pastors and the Quarterly Conferences, giving particular attention to the following:

a) The cultivation of personal religion and the sharing of spiritual experience.

b) Evangelistic interest and activity among the churches and in behalf of the unevangelized.

c) Establishment of new preaching places and organization of new congregations wherever needed.

d) Missionary and social-service interests and activities, including the Woman's Societies of Christian Service, hospitals, homes, and orphanages.

e) Christian education, including the church schools, youth organizations, the church-related colleges, Wesley Foundations, and all other educational institutions and work. It shall be the duty of the district superintendent to bring the subject of Christian education before the Quarterly Conference of each pastoral charge. At least once a year he shall inquire into the character and effectiveness of the program of Christian education of every charge within his district. He shall co-operate with the conference secretary of education, where there is one, and with the Conference Board of Education in promoting in all the churches of his district the plan of organization, the standards, and the literature provided or recommended by the General and Jurisdictional Boards of Education. He shall use the record and report forms provided by the General Board of Education for the use of district superintendents. He shall secure the names and addresses of the church-school superintendents of each charge and transmit them to the executive secretary of the Conference Board of Education on blanks furnished by the General Board of Education.

f) Christian literature, especially the circulation of our church papers and the distribution of literature and books issued by our Publishing House.

g) Lay activities, including personal evangelism, Christian stewardship, proper financial systems, temperance, social and economic justice, world peace, benevolences, and Christian life service.

h) Administration of the ordinances and Sacraments.
i) Formation of group ministries, larger parishes, or parish area plans to expedite the work of the church in larger areas.

16. To perform such other duties as the Discipline may direct. (See ¶¶ 103, 119, 121, 126, 139-41, 143, 145, 147, 149, 154-55, 168, 170-72, 175-76, 178, 180, 184, 186, 188-89, 196-97, 199, 206, 242, 271, 306-9, 311, 314, 316-17, 351-54, 364-65, 370, 378, 382, 431-32, 641, 646, 670, 686-95, 716, 721, 762, 764, 791, 796-97, 802, 810, 923, 929, 932-35, 957-61, 964, 966, 973-75, 1058-60, 1206, 1219, 1224, 1238, 1300, 1448, 1482-83, 1508, 1510, 1534, 1923, 2017-18.)

¶ 363. No district superintendent shall engage for an evangelist any person who is not a conference evangelist, a regular member of an Annual Conference, an approved supply pastor, a local preacher, or a lay speaker in good standing in The Methodist Church without first obtaining the written consent of his bishop. (See ¶¶ 1474, 1480.)

SEC. V.

Sabbatical Leave

¶ 364. Any minister who has been in the effective relation in any Annual Conference or Conferences for ten consecutive years from the time of his admission on trial may be granted a **sabbatical leave** by a bishop for one year without losing his relationship as an effective minister. This sabbatical leave is to be allowed for travel, study, rest, or for other justifiable reasons. Sabbatical leave granted by the bishop holding the conference must be upon the vote of the Annual Conference to which the minister belongs, after said minister has given notice to his district superintendent, and after the district superintendent has given notice to the bishop of his intention to request such sabbatical leave. A sabbatical leave shall not be granted to the same man more frequently than one year in seven.

SEC. VI.

Supernumerary Ministers

¶ 365. A **supernumerary minister** is one who, because of impaired health, or other equally sufficient reason, is temporarily unable to perform full work. This relation shall not be granted for more than five years in suc-

cession except by a two-thirds vote of the conference, upon recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations,¹³ and a statement of the reason for such recommendation. He may receive an appointment, or be left without one, according to the judgment of the Annual Conference of which he is a member; and he shall be subject to all limitations of the Discipline in respect to reappointment and continuance in the same charge that apply to effective ministers. In case he has no pastoral charge he shall have a seat in the Quarterly Conference, and all the privileges of membership, in the place where he resides. He shall report to the fourth Quarterly Conference, and to the pastor, all marriages performed and all baptisms administered. Should he reside outside the bounds of his Annual Conference, he shall forward to it annually a certificate similar to that required of a retired minister (¶ 370), and in case of failure to do so the Annual Conference may locate him without his consent. He shall have no claim on the conference funds except by vote of the conference.

SEC. VII.

Retired Ministers

¶ 367. A **retired minister** is one who, at his own request, or by action of the Annual Conference, on recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations, has been placed in the retired relation.¹⁴

¶ 368. Every clerical member of an Annual Conference whose seventy-second birthday precedes the first day of the regular session of his Annual Conference shall automatically be retired from the active ministry at said conference session.¹⁵

¶ 369. If any member of an Annual Conference who has attained age sixty-five or has completed forty years of full-time approved service, as defined in ¶ 1618, prior to the date of the opening session of the conference so requests, the Annual Conference may place him in the retired relation with the privilege of making an annuity claim. (See ¶ 1617.)

¹³ See Judicial Council Decision 105.

¹⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 87.

¹⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 7, 15.

¶ 370. Every retired minister who is not appointed as pastor of a charge shall have a seat in the Quarterly Conference, and all the privileges of membership in the church where he resides, except as set forth in ¶ 371. He shall report to the fourth Quarterly Conference and to the pastor all marriages performed and baptisms administered. If he resides outside the bounds of the conference, he shall forward annually to his conference a certificate of his Christian and his ministerial conduct, together with an account of the number and circumstances of his family, signed by the district superintendent or the pastor of the charge within the bounds of which he resides. Without this certificate the conference may, after due notice (thirty days), locate him without his consent.

¶ 371. In the case of a Quarterly Conference in a mission among non-English-speaking people, retired ministers of different race shall have a vote in the Quarterly Conference only when they shall have been duly elected to the same.

SEC. VIII. Termination of Annual Conference Membership

By Voluntary Location

¶ 374. An Annual Conference may grant a member a certificate of location at his own request; *provided* that it shall first have examined his character at the conference session when the request is made and found him in good standing; and *provided*, further, that this relation shall be granted only to one who avowedly intends to discontinue regular ministerial or evangelistic work. This relation shall be certified by the president of the conference. The minister shall thereupon hold his membership, as local elder or deacon, in the Quarterly Conference where he resides; shall report to the Quarterly Conference and the pastor all marriages performed, baptisms administered, and funerals conducted; and shall be held amenable for his conduct and the continuance of his ordination rights to the Annual Conference within which the Quarterly Conference membership is held.¹⁰ (See ¶ 310.)

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 110.

¶ 375. Whenever a member of the Annual Conference applies for a location it shall be asked: Is he indebted to the Publishing House? If it be ascertained that he is so indebted, the conference shall require him to secure said debt, if judged necessary or proper, before a location is granted.

¶ 376. A minister who has been located at his own request may be readmitted by an Annual Conference, at its discretion, upon presentation of his certificate of location and the recommendation of his District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications and of the Annual Conference from which he located. (See ¶ 379.)

By Involuntary Location

¶ 377. Whenever it is determined by the Committee on Conference Relations that, in their judgment, a member of the Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient, or indifferent in the work of the ministry, or that his conduct is such as to impair seriously his usefulness as a minister, or that his engagement in secular business, except as required by the ill health of himself or of his family, disqualifies him for pastoral work, they shall notify him in writing, and ask him to request location at the next session of the Annual Conference. If he refuses or neglects to locate as requested, the conference may, by count vote, on recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations, locate him without his consent. He then becomes a local preacher, but ineligible for appointment as supply or approved supply pastor. (See ¶¶ 310, 362 § 3, 432 § 8.)

¶ 378. Whenever it is unanimously determined by the district superintendents that a member of the Annual Conference should be located for any of the reasons cited in ¶ 377, they shall notify him in writing of their judgment at least three months before the next session of the Annual Conference, and ask him to request location at such session under the provisions of ¶ 374. If he refuses or neglects to locate as requested, the district superintendents shall certify the facts to the Committee on Conference Relations, which committee shall proceed to recommend his immediate location without his con-

sent. Upon such action being taken, he becomes a local preacher, but ineligible for appointment as supply or approved supply pastor. (See ¶¶ 310, 362 § 3, 432 § 8.)

¶ 379. If a located person remains a member in good standing of The Methodist Church until the age of voluntary retirement fixed by the General Conference, he shall thereby retain the right to make an annuity claim, based upon his years of approved service; *provided*, however, that he shall have been readmitted by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference which granted him location; if it be nonexistent, then he shall apply for admission to the Annual Conference within the boundaries of which the major part of his service was rendered or its legal successor. (See ¶¶ 376, 1630 § 15.)

By Surrender of the Ministerial Office

¶ 380. Any member of an Annual Conference in good standing who desires to surrender his ministerial office and withdraw from the conference may be allowed to do so by the conference at its session, in which case his credentials shall be filed with the official records of the Annual Conference of which he was a member, and his membership in the church shall be recorded in the society where he resides at the time of such surrender.

By Withdrawal

¶ 381. When a minister in good standing withdraws to unite with another church, his credentials should be surrendered to the conference, and, if he shall desire it, they may be returned to him with the following inscription written plainly across their face, namely:

A. B. has this day been honorably dismissed by the
Annual Conference from the ministry of The
Methodist Church.

Dated _____

_____, President
_____, Secretary

¶ 382. When in the interval between sessions of an Annual Conference a member thereof shall deposit with a bishop or with his district superintendent a letter of

withdrawal from our ministry, or his credentials, or both, the same shall be presented to the Annual Conference at its next session for its action thereon.

SEC. IX Mission Traveling Preacher

¶ 385. A mission traveling preacher, deacon, or elder, is one who is a member of a Mission without being a member of an Annual Conference. In the election of mission traveling deacons and elders the Mission shall require of all applicants the conditions and qualifications demanded of traveling deacons and elders by an Annual Conference. The duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of mission traveling deacons and elders shall be the same as those of traveling deacons and elders who are members of an Annual Conference; and such preachers may be transferred to an Annual Conference with the status attained in the Mission.

CHAPTER IV

MINISTERIAL ORDERS

[The term ministerial order refers to the office or status of a person in the Christian ministry. Ordination is the act of conferring ministerial orders. The ritual for ordination is set forth in ¶ 1920-21. In The Methodist Church ministerial orders are of two classes: deacon's and elder's.—EDITOR.]

SECTION I.

Deacons

¶ 391. A deacon is constituted by the election of the Annual Conference and the laying on of the hands of a bishop.

¶ 392. A deacon has authority to preach, to conduct divine worship, to perform the marriage ceremony, to administer Baptism, and to assist an elder in administering the Lord's Supper; *provided* that, while serving as a regularly appointed pastor of a charge, he shall be authorized to administer the Lord's Supper under the conditions set forth in ¶ 318.

¶ 393. Preachers of the following classes are eligible to the order of deacon:

1. *Theological students* who have been licensed to preach for two years and have been admitted on trial after having met the requirements of ¶ 323 or ¶ 325 § 1.

2. *Members on trial in the course of study* who, after being admitted under ¶ 325 § 2, have been on trial for two consecutive years and have completed two years of the ministerial course of study under the supervision of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications.

3. *Approved supply pastors* who have been under appointment for two consecutive years and have completed the introductory studies for the ministry and two full years of the ministerial course of study under the supervision of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications.

4. *Local preachers* who have been licensed for four consecutive years, who have completed two years of the ministerial course of study under the supervision of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, and who present to the Annual Conference a recommendation for deacon's orders from the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, duly attested by the chairman and secretary thereof.

5. *Missionaries* who have been admitted on trial and are to be appointed by a bishop to a foreign Mission, or to a remote field in any conference, or to a church in a foreign country outside the boundary of a Mission or Annual Conference; *provided* that the presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents shall have recommended election to the order of deacon.

6. *Chaplains* who have been admitted on trial and in time of urgent need are to be appointed by a bishop to serve on full-time duty with the Armed Forces or other agency related to the Commission on Chaplains; *provided* that the presiding bishop and a majority of the district superintendents shall have recommended election to the order of deacon.

SEC. II.

Elders

¶ 401. An *elder* is constituted by the election of the Annual Conference, and by the laying on of hands of a bishop and of elders.

¶ 402. An *elder* has authority to preach, to conduct divine worship, to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and to perform the marriage ceremony.

¶ 403. Preachers of the following classes are eligible to the order of elder:

1. *Theological graduates* who have been deacons for at least one year and have been received into full connection after having met the requirements of ¶ 342.

2. *Course of study graduates* who have been deacons for at least two years and have been received into full connection after having met the requirements of ¶ 343.

3. *Approved supply pastors* who have been under appointment for two full consecutive years as deacons and have completed the ministerial course of study under the supervision of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications.

4. *Local preachers* who have been deacons for four consecutive years, who have completed the entire ministerial course of study under the supervision of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, and who present a recommendation for elder's orders from the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, duly attested by the chairman and secretary thereof.

5. *Missionaries* who have served under appointment as deacons for one full year, have been admitted into full connection, and are to be appointed by a bishop to a foreign Mission, or to the pastorate of a church in a foreign country outside of a Mission or Annual Conference, or to a Mission among foreign people within an English-speaking conference.

6. *Chaplains* who have been admitted into full connection and in time of urgent need are to be appointed to serve on full-time duty with the Armed Forces or other agencies related to the Commission on Chaplains.

¶ 404. When a preacher has fulfilled the requirements for ordination and has been elected to the order of deacon, but fails to receive his ordination through the absence of the bishop, his eligibility to the order of elder shall count from the time of his election to the order of deacon.

¶ 405. No persons shall be elected to elder's orders ex-

cept such as are of unquestionable moral character and genuine piety, sound in the fundamental doctrine of Christianity and faithful in the discharge of gospel duties.

CHAPTER V

MINISTERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES

¶ 411. Ministers coming from other evangelical churches, provided they present suitable testimonials of good standing through the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, and give assurance of their faith, Christian experience, and other qualifications, and give evidence of their agreement with us in doctrine and discipline, and present a satisfactory certificate of good health on the prescribed form, from a physician approved by the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, and meet the educational requirements, may be received into our ministry in the following manner:

1. The District Conference or District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications may receive them as local preachers not entitled to administer the Sacraments, pending the recognition of their orders by the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference may recognize their orders as local deacons or elders provided they pass an approved examination in the ministerial course of study.

2. On recommendation of the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications and the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, the Annual Conference may recognize their orders and admit them into the membership of the conference, either on trial or in full connection, and may, at its discretion, require them to pursue, in whole or in part, the ministerial course of study.¹⁷

3. Ministers from other churches who can meet the educational standards required of Methodist ministers may apply through the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications to the Annual Conference, which may recognize their credentials and receive them on trial or

¹⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 31.

into the full membership of the conference; *provided* that candidates for admission under this or the preceding item shall be required to answer satisfactorily the questions in ¶¶ 322, 345; and *provided*, further, that those from other than Methodist churches must take upon themselves our ordination vows, without the reimposition of hands.

4. The Annual Conference, on recommendation of the Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, may also receive on equal standing preachers who are on trial in the ministry of another Methodist church, using, however, special care that before they are admitted to full membership, their examination be entirely satisfactory.

5. All preachers coming into our ministry from other churches shall be required to comply with the provisions of ¶¶ 323-25, 342-44.

¶ 412. The Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications of an Annual Conference is required to ascertain from a minister seeking admission into its membership on credentials from another denomination whether or not membership in the effective relation was previously held in an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, or one of its legal predecessors, and if so, when and under what circumstances his connection with such Annual Conference was severed.

¶ 413. A minister seeking admission into an Annual Conference on credentials from another denomination who has previously withdrawn from membership in the effective relation in an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, or one of its legal predecessors, shall not be admitted or readmitted without the consent of the Annual Conference from which he withdrew, or its legal successor, or the Annual Conference of which the major portion of his former conference is a part.¹⁸

¶ 414. Whenever the orders of a minister are recognized according to the foregoing provisions, he shall be furnished with a certificate signed by the bishop according to the form:

¹⁸ ¶¶ 412-13 were added in 1944 following Judicial Council Decision 16.

This is to certify that the ——— Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, having examined the credentials of the Rev. A. B. as ——— [an elder or a deacon] of the ——— Church, and having received other testimonials of his grace, gifts, and usefulness, and being satisfied therewith, has this day accepted and recognized him in due form as ——— [an elder or a deacon] in The Methodist Church, entitled to exercise under its authority all the functions pertaining to that ordination, so long as his life and doctrine become the gospel of Christ.

Given under my hand and seal at ——— this ——— day of ——— in the year of our Lord ———.
 ———, President

¶ 415. When the orders of a minister of another church shall have been duly recognized, his certificate of ordination by said church shall be returned to him with the following inscription written plainly across its face:

Accredited by the ——— Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, this ——— day of ———, 19——, as the basis of new credentials.

———, President
 ———, Secretary

CHAPTER VI

EPISCOPACY

SECTION I.

General Provisions

¶ 421. The general plan of episcopal supervision, including the **Council of Bishops**, is set forth in the Constitution (¶¶ 20, 34-41). (See also ¶ 8 § 5, ¶ 9 § 2, ¶ 15 § 2, ¶ 18 § 2, ¶ 43 §§ 1-4.)

¶ 422. The Jurisdictional and Central Conferences are authorized to fix the percentage of votes necessary to elect a bishop. It is recommended that at least three fifths of those present and voting be necessary to elect.

¶ 423. The bishop or bishops elected by a Jurisdictional or Central Conference shall be consecrated at the

session of the conference at which the election or elections take place, or at an adjourned session thereof, or at a time and place designated by the conference. At the consecration service the other Jurisdictional and Central Conferences and the church at large may be represented by one or more bishops appointed by the president of the Council of Bishops.¹⁹

¶ 424. In the case of an emergency in a Central Conference through the death or expiration of term of service or any other disability of a bishop, the Council of Bishops may assign one of its number to furnish the necessary episcopal supervision for that field.

¶ 425. The Council of Bishops shall promote the evangelistic activities of the church and shall appoint quadrennially one of their number who shall be the chairman of the General Board of Evangelism and furnish such inspirational leadership as the need and opportunity may demand.

¶ 426. For other responsibilities of the Council of Bishops see ¶¶ 8 § 11, 10 § 2, 427, 435-36, 509, 593, 604, 703, 737 § 5, 748, 750, 753 § 5, 758 § 1, 762 § 6, 776, 904, 906, 914, 1105-6, 1111, 1115 §§ 3-4, 1116, 1120 § 6, 1129, 1172, 1230, 1289, 1315, 1326, 1415, 1417, 1463, 1491, 1536, 1553, 1568, 1571-72, 1581, 1586, 1591, 1596-97, 1599, 1602 § 1, 2011-13, 2017-18.

¶ 427. There shall be a **Conference of Methodist Bishops**, composed of all the bishops elected by the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences, and bishops of affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, which shall meet in each quadrennium immediately prior to the General Conference, on call of the Council of Bishops. In case of an emergency a special meeting of the conference may be called by the Council of Bishops at any time during the quadrennium. The expense shall be charged to the Episcopal Fund. The travel expense of bishops from affiliated autonomous Methodist churches shall be paid on the same basis as that of the bishops of The Methodist Church.

¹⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 61.

Sec. II. Duties, Powers, and Limitations of Bishops

¶ 431. The duties of a bishop are:

1. To oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church.
2. To preside in the General, Jurisdictional, Central, and Annual Conferences.
3. To form the districts according to his judgment, after consultation with the district superintendents, and after the number of the same has been determined by vote of the Annual Conference.
4. To fix the appointments of the preachers in the Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions, as the Discipline may direct. He may appoint an associate pastor for a charge when in his judgment such an appointment is necessary.
5. To read the appointments of deaconesses.
6. To fix, either within their own conference or within the conference where they attend school, the Quarterly Conference membership of all ministers who are appointed to attend school.
7. To transfer, with the consent of the bishop of the receiving Annual Conference, a ministerial member of one Annual Conference to another, provided the ministerial member agrees to said transfer;²⁰ and to send immediately to the secretaries of both conferences involved, and to the clearinghouse of the General Board of Pensions, written notices of the transfer of a member, and of his standing in the course of study, if he is an undergraduate.
8. To organize such Missions as shall have been authorized by the General Conference.
9. To consecrate bishops, to ordain elders and deacons, to consecrate deaconesses, and to see that the names of the persons ordained and consecrated by him be entered on the journals of the conference, and that proper credentials be furnished to these persons.
10. To travel through the connection at large.

¶ 432. The following provisions and limitations shall be observed by the bishop when fixing the appointments:

²⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 114.

1. He shall appoint preachers to pastoral charges annually after consultation with the district superintendents; *provided* that, before the official declaration of the assignments of the preachers, he shall announce openly to the Cabinet his appointments; and *provided*, further, that before the final announcement of appointments is made the district superintendents shall consult with the pastors except when the pastors involved have left the seat of the Annual Conference without the permission of the Annual Conference.²¹

2. He may make or change the appointments of preachers in the interval between sessions of the Annual Conference as necessity may require, after consultation with the district superintendents.

3. He shall choose and appoint the district superintendents annually; but within the Jurisdictional Conferences of the United States he shall not appoint any minister a district superintendent for more than six consecutive years nor for more than six years in any consecutive nine years.

4. He may make the following appointments annually: the publisher and his assistants; general and executive secretaries and their assistants, treasurers, and recording secretaries of the connectional benevolence boards and societies; editors, associate editors, and assistant editors of publications of The Methodist Church; chaplains in the Armed Forces, Veterans Administration, and other federal agencies and in state and local public and private institutions, including hospitals and charitable institutions; chaplains in industries and housing projects and to labor groups, whether organized or unorganized, within the episcopal area of the bishop making the appointment, *provided* that if the duties of such a chaplain carry him into another episcopal area his appointment must have the concurrence of the bishop or bishops of the areas concerned; preachers for seamen; ministers for community and federated churches; ministers in the service of the American Bible Society or of any state Bible society auxiliary thereto, or of the Sunday League of America;

²¹ See Judicial Council Decision 101.

the presidents, principals, and teachers in institutions of learning under our auspices; secretaries and superintendents of city missions; executive and extension secretaries of Conference Boards of Education and conference missionary secretaries; superintendents of Goodwill Industries affiliated with The Methodist Church; executive secretaries of preachers' aid societies and organizations of similar character; ministers of the Methodist Student Movement.

5. On the recommendation of the district superintendents, confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference, he may appoint a person or persons: to travel throughout such conference to distribute tracts; to promote the cause of temperance; to promote or serve in our institutions of learning, hospitals and homes under our auspices, or other benevolence institutions; to serve in groups devoted to the promotion of peace and world order; to teach in institutions of learning not under our auspices; to be editors of unofficial papers or magazines published in the interests of The Methodist Church; *provided* that in no such case shall the church incur any financial responsibility.

6. On the recommendation of the Conference Board of Evangelism, confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Annual Conference, he may appoint an effective member of the conference as conference evangelist; *provided* that the appointee shall meet the standards set up by the General and Conference Boards of Evangelism for conference evangelists. (See ¶¶ 1474 § 2, 1480.)

7. He may appoint a preacher on trial or a member of an Annual Conference who desires to attend school to any college or school of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate.

8. He shall not appoint any preacher who has been rejected as an applicant, or who has been discontinued or located, except at his own request, unless the conference, at the time of such rejection, discontinuance, or location, shall give such liberty; and he shall not appoint as a supply any preacher who has previously been expelled from the ministry or has surrendered his credentials to an Annual Conference unless the conference to which he

surrendered his credentials, or from which he was expelled, restores his credentials or recommends it.

9. Every traveling preacher, unless retired, supernumerary, on sabbatical leave, or under arrest of character, must receive an appointment.

¶ 433. When a bishop judges it necessary, he may divide a circuit, station, or mission into two or more charges and appoint the pastors thereto; and he may unite two or more circuits or stations and appoint one pastor for the united congregations.

¶ 434. Bishops shall discharge such other duties as the Discipline may direct. (See ¶¶ 188-89, 363, 382, 414-15, 523, 544, 571, 573, 575, 578, 589, 607, 669-70, 762 § 4, 764, 905-6, 923-24, 933-37, 949, 1105, 1172 § 2, 1231, 1444-45, 1483, 1523-24, 1546, 1533, 1659, 2017-18.)

SEC. III.

Retired Bishops

¶ 435. 1. If a bishop cease from traveling at large among the people without the consent of the Jurisdictional Conference, he shall not thereafter exercise in any degree the episcopal office in The Methodist Church.

2. A bishop may voluntarily resign from the episcopacy at any session of his Jurisdictional Conference. A bishop so resigning shall surrender to the secretary of his Jurisdictional Conference his consecration papers, and he shall be furnished with a certificate of his resignation which shall entitle him to membership as a traveling elder in the Annual Conference of which he was last a member, or its successor. When he or his surviving widow and dependent children become conference claimants, the Episcopal Fund shall pay a pension on account of his service as a bishop and his Annual Conference or Conferences on account of his approved service therein.

3. A bishop who by reason of impaired health is temporarily unable to perform full work may be released by the Jurisdictional Conference from the obligation to travel through the connection at large. He may choose the place of his residence, and the Council of Bishops shall be at liberty to assign him to such work as he may be able to perform. He shall receive his support as provided in ¶ 775.

¶ 436. 1. A bishop whose seventieth birthday precedes the first day of the regular session of his Jurisdictional Conference shall be released at the close of that conference from the obligation to travel through the connection at large, and from residential supervision.

2. A bishop, at any age and for any reason deemed sufficient by his Jurisdictional Conference, may be released by that body from the obligation to travel through the connection at large, and from residential supervision.

3. A bishop who has reached the age of sixty-five years, or who will reach the age of sixty-five years during the calendar year in which his Jurisdictional Conference is held, and who has given written notice that he so elects to the bishops of his jurisdiction, may be retired at the session of his Jurisdictional Conference next following such notice.

4. A bishop who has been retired under provisions 1, 2, or 3 may, on vote of the Council of Bishops, be appointed to take charge of an episcopal area, or parts of an area, in case of the death, resignation, or disability of the resident bishop or because of judicial procedure (provided the request is made by a majority of the bishops in the jurisdiction of the proposed change). This appointment shall not continue beyond the next session of his Jurisdictional Conference.

¶ 437. 1. A bishop who has been released from the obligation to travel through the connection at large in accordance with any of the foregoing provisions shall not preside thereafter over any Annual Conference, Provisional Annual Conference, or Mission, or make appointments, or preside at the Jurisdictional or Central Conference, but may take the chair temporarily in any conference if requested to do so by the bishop presiding. He may participate in the Council of Bishops, but without vote.²² In case, however, a retired bishop shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops to take charge of a vacant episcopal area, or parts of an area, under the provisions of ¶ 436 § 4, he may preside over sessions of an Annual Conference, Provisional Annual Conference, or

²² See Judicial Council Decisions 35, 40.

Mission, make appointments, and participate and vote in the meetings of the bishops.

2. A bishop who has been released under any of the foregoing provisions may continue to exercise all the rights and privileges which pertain to the episcopal office, except as herein otherwise provided.

¶ 438. Each Central Conference shall determine the rules for retirement of its bishops; *provided* that the age of retirement shall not exceed that fixed for bishops in the jurisdictions. In the event of retirement allowances being paid from the Episcopal Fund, these rules shall be subject to the approval of the General Conference.²³

SEC. IV.

Bishops in Jurisdictions

¶ 439. Each jurisdiction having 500,000 church members or less shall be entitled to four bishops, and for each additional 500,000 church members or two thirds thereof shall be entitled to one additional bishop, *provided*, however, that in those jurisdictions where this requirement would result in there being an average of more than 70,000 square miles per episcopal area, such jurisdiction shall be entitled to four bishops for the first 400,000 church members or less, and for each additional 400,000 church members or two thirds thereof shall be entitled to one additional bishop; and *provided*, further, that the General Conference may authorize any Jurisdictional Conference to elect one or more bishops beyond the quota herein specified in order to provide episcopal supervision for mission fields outside the territory of a Jurisdictional Conference.²⁴

¶ 440. Each Jurisdictional Conference may fix the episcopal residences within its jurisdiction and assign the bishops to the same. The bishops of the jurisdiction shall fix the boundaries of the episcopal areas.²⁵

SEC. V.

Bishops in Central Conferences

¶ 441. The Central Conferences shall elect bishops in the number determined by the General Conference, whose

²³ Amended in 1952 following Judicial Council Decision 83.

²⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 84.

²⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 48, 57, 84.

episcopal supervision shall be within the territory included in the Central Conference by which they have been elected, subject to such other conditions as the General Conference shall prescribe; *provided*, however, that a bishop elected by one Central Conference may exercise episcopal supervision in another Central Conference when so requested by such other Central Conference.

¶ 442. A bishop elected by a Central Conference shall be constituted by election in a Central Conference and consecrated by the laying on of hands of three bishops, or at least one bishop and two elders.²⁶

¶ 443. A bishop elected by a Central Conference shall have, within the bounds of the Central Conference by which he is elected or within which he is administering, authority similar to that exercised by bishops elected by or administering in a Jurisdictional Conference.

¶ 444. A bishop elected by a Central Conference shall have the status, rights, and duties within his territory of a bishop elected by or functioning in a Jurisdictional Conference. A bishop elected by a Central Conference shall have membership in the Council of Bishops and shall have the privilege of full participation with vote. (See ¶ 20 § 2.) Attendance on the annual meetings of the Council of Bishops by bishops elected by Central Conferences shall be left to the option of the bishops in each Central Conference.²⁷

¶ 445. In a Central Conference where term episcopacy prevails, a bishop whose term of office expires prior to the time of compulsory retirement because of age, and who is not re-elected by the Central Conference, shall be returned to membership as a traveling elder in the Annual Conference (or its successor) of which he ceased to be a member when elected bishop. His term of office shall expire at the close of the Central Conference at which his successor is elected, and he shall therefore be entitled to participate as a bishop in the consecration of his successor. The credentials of his office as bishop shall be submitted to the secretary of the Central Conference, who shall make thereon the notation that he has honorably completed the term

²⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 61.

²⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 117.

of service for which he was elected and has ceased to be a bishop of The Methodist Church. (See ¶ 559 § 2.)

SEC. VI.

Missionary Bishops

¶ 446. 1. A **missionary bishop** is a bishop who has been elected for a specified foreign mission field with full episcopal powers, but with episcopal jurisdiction limited to the foreign mission field for which he was elected.²⁸

2. Missionary bishops shall be included in all other provisions for the episcopacy, including relation to Jurisdictional Conferences, amenability, and provisions for support and retirement.

3. Notwithstanding the above definitions, in an emergency the Council of Bishops may assign a missionary bishop for specified service in any foreign field in consultation with the authorities, where such exist, of the Central Conference or the Provisional Central Conference concerned.

²⁸ See Judicial Council Decisions 21, 84, 127.

PART IV

THE CONFERENCES

CHAPTER I

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

SECTION I. Composition

¶ 501. The General Conference shall be composed of one ministerial member for every seventy¹ ministerial members of each Annual Conference and one additional member for a major fraction thereof and an equal number of lay members, all of whom shall be elected by ballot and by a majority vote. The term "ministerial members" as used above shall refer to effective members of the Annual Conference and also supernumerary and retired members. Every Annual Conference shall be entitled to at least one ministerial and one lay member. The secretaries of the several Annual Conferences shall furnish certificates of election to the delegates severally, and shall send a certificate of such election to the secretary of the preceding General Conference immediately after the adjournment of said Annual Conference.

¶ 502. General or executive secretaries of the general boards of the church who are not elected members of the General Conference shall have the privilege of the floor on matters affecting the interests of their boards, but without vote and at the expense of their respective boards. This provision shall be limited to one secretary for each board, except that if its work is divided into divisions by

¹ The General Conference of 1956 ordered that if Constitutional Amendment XI (¶ 5), raising the maximum General Conference membership to 900, should not be ratified by the required majority of Annual Conference members, this figure "seventy" should be revised to "seventy-five."

the Discipline and it elects separate executives for each division, then each division shall be represented. If a board by formal action shall so request, it may be represented by an associate secretary rather than by the regularly elected general or executive secretary.

¶ 503. Each Provisional Annual Conference and Mission outside the United States may designate a member to meet with the standing committees and have the privilege of the floor of the General Conference on matters affecting the interests of his conference, but without vote and without expense to the General Conference except for the per diem during its sessions.

SEC. II. Election of Delegates

¶ 505. 1. The ministerial and lay delegates and reserves to the General Conference shall be elected by ballot in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (¶¶ 23-25).

2. The ministerial and lay members may meet separately to vote for the election of delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences.²

3. The election of delegates, by ballot, shall be held at the session of the Annual Conference immediately preceding the General Conference.³

4. The General Conference recommends to the Annual Conferences that the delegates to the General Conference be first elected on a separate ballot, to be followed, after all the delegates to the General Conference have been elected, by balloting for delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference as reserves to the General Conference.

SEC. III. Rules

¶ 506. When the General Conference is in session, it shall require the presence of a majority of the whole number of delegates to the General Conference to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but a smaller number may take a recess or adjourn from day to day in order to secure a quorum, and at the final session may approve the journal, order the record of the roll call, and adjourn *sine die*.

² See Judicial Council Decision 76.

¶ 507. The ministerial and lay members shall deliberate as one body. They shall vote as one body, but a separate vote shall be taken on any question when requested by one third of either order of delegates present and voting. In all cases of separate voting it shall require the concurrence of a majority of each order to adopt the proposed measure. However, in the case of changes in the Constitution, a vote of two thirds of the General Conference, as provided in the Constitution, shall be required.

¶ 508. The plan of organization and rules of order of the General Conference shall be the plan of organization and rules of order as published in the journal of the preceding General Conference until they have been altered or modified by the action of the General Conference.

¶ 509. The Council of Bishops by two-thirds majority vote, or two thirds of all the Annual Conferences by a majority vote of each conference, shall have the power to call at any time an extra session of the General Conference to be held at such time as the Council of Bishops may choose and at such place as a committee chosen by the Council of Bishops may fix. The General Conference thus called shall be composed of the delegates elected to the preceding General Conference, except when an Annual Conference shall prefer to have a new election.

SEC. IV. General Conference Powers

¶ 511. General Conference powers, and the restrictions thereon, are set forth in the Constitution (¶¶ 5-10; see also ¶¶ 11, 13, 15-19, 27, 28, 30-33, 35, 36, 42).

¶ 512. No person, no paper, no organization has the authority to speak officially for The Methodist Church, except only the General Conference under the Constitution.

CHAPTER II

THE JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

SECTION I. General Provisions

¶ 516. All Jurisdictional Conferences shall have the same status and the same privileges of action within the limits fixed by the Constitution. (¶ 12.)

¶ 517. The Jurisdictional Conference shall be composed of one ministerial delegate for every thirty ministerial members of each Annual Conference, or major fraction thereof, and an equal number of lay delegates; provided that no Annual Conference shall be denied the privilege of two delegates, one lay and one ministerial.³

¶ 518. The ministerial and lay delegates and reserves to the Jurisdictional Conferences shall be elected by ballot in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. (¶¶ 23-25.)

¶ 519. The ministers and lay delegates shall deliberate in one body.

¶ 520. Each Jurisdictional Conference shall meet within the twelve months succeeding the meeting of the General Conference, but not earlier than six weeks after the convening of the General Conference, at such time and place as shall have been determined by the preceding Jurisdictional Conference or by its properly constituted committee.

¶ 521. The Jurisdictional Conference shall adopt its own procedure, rules, and plan of organization. It shall take a majority of the whole number of delegates elected to make a quorum for the transaction of business. But a smaller number may take a recess or adjourn from day to day, and at the final session may approve the journal, order the record of the roll call, and adjourn *sine die*.

¶ 522. The Jurisdictional Conference shall provide for the expenses of its sessions.

¶ 523. The bishops of a Jurisdictional Conference, by a two-thirds vote, shall have authority to call a special session of the conference when necessary. A called session cannot transact any other business than that indicated in the call.

¶ 524. The Jurisdictional Conference shall be presided over by the bishops of the jurisdiction, except as provided for in Division Three, Article V (¶ 38), of the Constitution governing episcopal administration. In case no bishop of the jurisdiction is present, the conference may elect a president from the ministerial delegates.

³ See Judicial Council Decision 125.

¶ 525. A bishop elected by or administering in a Jurisdictional Conference shall be amenable for his conduct to his Jurisdictional Conference. Any bishop shall have the right of appeal to the Judicial Council.

¶ 526. The Jurisdictional Conference shall elect a standing **Committee on Episcopacy**, to consist of one ministerial and one lay delegate from each Annual Conference, on nomination of the Annual Conference delegation. The said committee shall review the work of the bishops, pass on their character and official administration, and report to the Jurisdictional Conference its findings for such action as the conference may deem appropriate within its constitutional warrant of power. The said committee shall recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference the assignments of the said bishops to their respective residences, and may make recommendations to the bishops of its jurisdiction concerning the formation of the episcopal areas within its jurisdiction. The committee shall report their recommendation as to assignments to the Jurisdictional Conference for final action.

¶ 527. The Jurisdictional Conference shall have powers and duties as described in the Constitution (¶ 15), and such others as may be conferred by the General Conference.⁴ For the fixing of episcopal residences and the bounding of episcopal areas within the jurisdictions see ¶ 440.

¶ 528. In all elections in a Jurisdictional Conference which are based on the number of church members within that jurisdiction, the number counted shall include lay members, ministerial members, and bishops assigned to that jurisdiction. (See ¶¶ 439, 1101.)

¶ 529. The Jurisdictional Conference shall have authority to examine and acknowledge the journals of the Annual Conferences within its bounds, and shall make such rules for the drawing up of the journals as may seem necessary.

¶ 530. 1. The Jurisdictional Conference shall keep an official **journal** of its proceedings, duly signed by the secretary and president, the same to be sent for examination to the ensuing General Conference.

⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 67.

2. For the sake of convenience and uniformity, the journal when printed should conform in page size and formation to the General Conference journal; and the printing should be done at the expense of the jurisdiction by The Methodist Publishing House.

SEC. II. Jurisdictional Boundaries

¶ 531. The Methodist Church in the United States of America shall have Jurisdictional Conferences made up as described in the Constitution (¶ 26). For methods of changing the number, names, and boundaries of the Jurisdictional and Annual Conferences see ¶¶ 28, 29 in the Constitution and also ¶ 532.

¶ 532. Any local church shall be transferred from the jurisdiction of which it is part to another jurisdiction in which it is located geographically upon completion of all the following actions, regardless of the order in which taken: (a) approval by the membership and the Quarterly Conference of said church; (b) approval by both the Annual Conference of which the church has been a part and the Annual Conference to which transfer is desired; (c) approval by a majority of the Annual Conferences and also by the Jurisdictional Conference of both the jurisdiction of which the church has been a part and the jurisdiction to which transfer is desired; and (d) approval by the General Conference in the form of an enabling act. Such transfer shall be effected when all of the required actions have been certified to the Council of Bishops by the secretaries of all the conferences involved, whereupon the Council of Bishops shall issue a declaration that the transfer has been duly effected.⁵

SEC. III. Property

¶ 533. The Jurisdictional Conference shall not alienate any property or institution, or the proceeds derived from the sale or transfer of any property or institution, from The Methodist Church, nor shall the Jurisdictional Conference or any of its boards involve the General Conference boards or any other organization of the church in any

⁵ Adopted in 1952 following Judicial Council Decisions 28, 32, 55, 56, 85.

financial obligation without the official approval of said board or organization.

¶ 534. When property rights are involved by the change of boundary lines of Annual Conferences within the jurisdiction, the Jurisdictional Conference shall constitute a committee of arbitration to adjust all claims and make final settlement of the same. In the case of interjurisdictional conflicts, the said committee shall act with a like committee from each of the other jurisdictions involved to reach a proper settlement.

¶ 535. No invested funds, fiduciary trusts, or property acquired by bequest, donation, or otherwise for specific objects within the boundaries of an Annual Conference or Conferences may be diverted to other purposes except by the consent of the Annual Conference or Conferences involved and with the consent of the Jurisdictional Conference or Conferences concerned, and civil court approval when necessary; *provided* that local churches possessing such funds or property shall not be required to obtain the consent of the Jurisdictional Conferences. The same rule shall apply to similar funds or properties acquired by the Jurisdictional Conferences for work specifically jurisdictional in its scope. In such cases the Jurisdictional Conference shall determine the disposition of the interests involved, subject to an appeal to the Judicial Council.

Provided, moreover, that trust funds may not be divided or diverted to other purposes than for the specific objects for which donated, even with the consent of Annual Conferences or Jurisdictional Conferences, unless the said conferences are the beneficiaries of said trust funds or control them.⁶

CHAPTER III

THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE

SECTION I.

Authorization

¶ 541. In territory outside the United States of America, Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences,

⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 64.

and Missions in such numbers as the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall determine may be organized by the General Conference into Central Conferences or Provisional Central Conferences with such duties, privileges, and powers as are hereinafter set forth and as the General Conference by a two-thirds vote shall prescribe.

¶ 542. There shall be such Central Conferences as have been authorized, or shall be hereafter authorized by the General Conference; *provided* that a Central Conference shall have at least a total of thirty ministerial and thirty lay delegates on the basis of representation as set forth in ¶ 543, except as the General Conference may fix a different number. A Central Conference now in existence may be continued with a lesser number of delegates for reasons deemed sufficient by the General Conference.

SEC. II.

Organization

¶ 543. The Central Conference shall be composed of ministerial and lay members in equal numbers, the ministerial elected by the ministerial members of the Annual Conference and the lay by the lay members thereof. For the first meeting their qualifications shall be the same as provided in ¶¶ 24-25, and the Annual Conference shall determine the manner of their choice. Thereafter, their qualifications and the manner of election shall be determined by the Central Conference itself.⁷ Each Annual Conference and Provisional Annual Conference shall be entitled to at least two ministerial and two lay delegates, and no other selection of delegates shall be authorized which would provide for more than one ministerial delegate for every six ministerial members of an Annual Conference, except that a majority of the number fixed by a Central Conference as the ratio of representation shall entitle an Annual Conference to an additional ministerial delegate and to an additional lay delegate. A Mission is authorized to elect and send one of its members to the Central Conference concerned as the representative of the Mission, said representative to be accorded the privilege of sitting with the committees of the Central

⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 124.

Conference, with the right to speak in the committees, and in the regular sessions of the Central Conference, but without the right to vote. The representative of the Mission shall have the same claim for payment of expenses as is allowed to members of the Central Conference.

¶ 544. The first meeting of a Central Conference shall be called by the bishop or bishops in charge, at such time and place as he or they may select, to which members of the Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions concerned shall be elected on the basis of representation in accordance with ¶ 543. The time and place of future meetings shall be determined by the Central Conference or its executive committee.

¶ 545. Each Central Conference shall meet within the year succeeding the session of the General Conference, at such time and place as the Central Conference itself or its bishops may determine, with the right to hold such adjourned sessions as it may determine. The sessions of said conference shall be presided over by the bishops. In case no bishop be present, the conference shall elect a temporary president from among its own members. The bishops resident in a Central Conference, or a majority of them, with the concurrence of the executive committee or other authorized committee, shall have the authority to call an extra session of the Central Conference to be held at the time and place designated by them.

¶ 546. The Council of Bishops may assign one or more of their number to visit any Central Conference or Provisional Central Conference. When so assigned, the bishop shall be an accredited representative of the general church and, when requested by a majority of the bishops resident in that conference, may exercise therein the functions of the episcopacy. (See also ¶¶ 593, 604.)

547. The presiding officer of the Central Conference shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Central Conference, and he shall decide questions of law, subject to an appeal to the Judicial Council; but questions relating to the interpretation of the rules and regulations made by the Central Conference for the governing of its own session shall be decided by the Central Conference.

¶ 548. Each Central Conference within the bounds of which the Board of Missions has work shall maintain a co-operative and consultative relationship with the said board through a duly constituted executive committee, executive board, or council of co-operation; but the legal distinction between the Board of Missions and the organized church on the field shall always be kept clear.

¶ 549. The journal of the proceedings of a Central Conference, duly signed by the president and secretary, shall be sent for examination to the General Conference.

¶ 550. A Provisional Central Conference may become a Central Conference upon the fulfillment of the necessary requirements and upon the authorization of the General Conference.

SEC. III. Central Conference Powers

¶ 556. To a Central Conference shall be committed for supervision and promotion, in harmony with the Discipline and interdenominational contractual agreements, the missionary, educational, evangelistic, industrial, publishing, medical, and other connectional interests of the Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions within its territory, and such other matters as may be referred to it by said bodies, or by order of the General Conference; and it shall provide suitable organizations for such work and elect the necessary officers for the same. A Central Conference, however, may not enter upon such work outside its borders without first consulting the Board of Missions and securing its approval.

¶ 557. A Central Conference, when authorized by a specific enabling act of the General Conference, may elect one or more bishops from among the traveling elders of The Methodist Church. The number of bishops to be elected by each Central Conference shall be determined from time to time by the General Conference.

¶ 558. When a Central Conference shall have been authorized to elect bishops, such elections shall be conducted under the same general procedure as prevails in the Jurisdictional Conferences for the election of bishops. A Central Conference shall have power to fix the tenure

of bishops elected by the said Central Conference; *provided* that such tenure shall not be for a term longer than that in force at the time for bishops elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences.^a

¶ 559. 1. A Central Conference shall participate in the General Episcopal Fund on payment of its apportionment on the same basis as that fixed for Annual Conferences in Jurisdictional Conferences. When the total estimated support, including salaries and all allowances for the bishops elected by it, and the amount that it will be able to provide on apportionment, have been determined by a Central Conference, these amounts in itemized form shall be submitted to the Council on World Service and Finance. This council after consideration of the relative cost of living in various Central Conferences, shall determine the amount to be paid from the General Episcopal Fund in meeting this budget, after which the treasurer of the General Episcopal Fund shall pay the amount established to the bishop concerned, or as the Central Conference may determine.

2. A minister who has served a term, or part of a term, as a bishop in a Central Conference where term episcopacy has prevailed, shall, upon his retirement from the effective relation in the ministry, be paid an allowance from the General Episcopal Fund in such sum as the Council on World Service and Finance shall determine for the years during which he served as a bishop. (See ¶ 445.)

¶ 560. 1. A Central Conference, in consultation with the bishops of that Central Conference, shall fix the episcopal areas and residences and make assignments to them of the bishops who are to reside in that Central Conference. The bishops of a Central Conference shall arrange the plan of episcopal visitation within its bounds.

2. The secretary of a Central Conference in which one or more bishops have been chosen shall report to the secretary of the General Conference the names of the bishop or bishops and the residences to which they have been assigned by the Central Conference.

^a See Judicial Council Decisions 4, 61, 80.

¶ 561. A Central Conference shall have authority to elect and support general officers in all departments of the work of the church within the boundaries of the Central Conferences, but may not determine the number of bishops.

¶ 562. A Central Conference shall have power to make such changes and adaptations as the peculiar conditions on the fields concerned require regarding the local church, ministry, special advices, worship, and temporal economy within its territory, and shall have power to decide the official status and ordination of women;^a *provided* that no action shall be taken which is contrary to the Constitution and the General Rules of The Methodist Church.

¶ 563. A Central Conference shall have the authority to change the provisions for the ordination of ministers in such way that the ordination of an elder may follow immediately upon his ordination as a deacon, provided that other conditions are fully met.

¶ 564. A Central Conference shall fix the boundaries of the Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions within its bounds, proposals for changes first having been submitted to the Annual Conferences concerned as prescribed in the Discipline of The Methodist Church; *provided*, however, that the number of Annual Conferences which may be organized within the bounds of a Central Conference shall first have been determined by the General Conference. No Annual Conference shall be organized with fewer than thirty-five ministerial members. Nor shall an Annual Conference be continued with fewer than twenty-five ministerial members.

¶ 565. A Central Conference may advise its Annual Conferences and Provisional Annual Conferences to set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of lay members.

¶ 566. A Central Conference shall have power to make changes and adaptations in procedure pertaining to the Annual, District, and Quarterly Conferences within its territory, and to add to the business of the Annual Con-

^a See Judicial Council Decision 121.

ference supplementary questions considered desirable or necessary to meet its own needs.

¶ 567. A Central Conference shall have authority to examine and acknowledge the journals of the Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions located within its bounds, and to make rules for the drawing up of the journals as may seem necessary.

¶ 568. A Central Conference may have a standing **Committee on Woman's Work**. This committee should preferably be composed of the women delegates and such other persons as the Central Conference may elect. The duty of this committee shall be to study the relation of women to the church and to devise ways and means of developing this portion of the church membership, to the end that it may assume its rightful responsibilities in the extension of the Kingdom. The committee shall make recommendations to the Central Conference regarding women's organizations within its areas. A Central Conference organization may become a member of the World Federation of Methodist Women and may elect a representative on the World Council of the federation. (See ¶ 2032.)

¶ 569. A Central Conference may organize a woman's unit, after consultation with the Committee on Woman's Work, in connection with any Annual Conference or Provisional Annual Conference within its bounds and provide a constitution and by-laws for it.

¶ 570. A Central Conference shall have authority to adopt rules of procedure governing the investigation and trial of its ministers, including bishops, and lay members of the church and to provide the necessary means and methods of carrying them into effect; *provided*, however, that the ministers shall not be deprived of the right of trial by a ministerial committee, and lay members of the church of the right of trial by a duly constituted committee of church members; and *provided*, also, that the rights of appeal shall be adequately safeguarded. (See ¶ 930.)

¶ 571. A Central Conference is authorized to prepare and translate simplified or adapted forms of such parts of the Ritual as it may deem necessary, such changes to

require the approval of the resident bishop or bishops of the Central Conference.

¶ 572. A Central Conference shall have the power to conform the detailed rules, rites, and ceremonies for the solemnization of marriage to the statute laws of the country or countries within its jurisdiction.

¶ 573. Subject to the approval of the bishops resident therein, a Central Conference shall have the power to prescribe courses of study, including those in the vernaculars, for its ministry, both foreign and indigenous, including local preachers, lay speakers, Bible women, deaconesses, teachers both male and female, and all other workers whatsoever, ordained or lay. It shall also make rules and regulations for examinations in these courses.

¶ 574. A Central Conference shall have authority to edit and publish a Central Conference Discipline which shall contain, in addition to the Constitution of the church, such sections from the general Discipline of The Methodist Church as may be pertinent to the entire church; and also such revised, adapted, or new sections as shall have been enacted by the Central Conference concerned, under the powers given by the General Conference, with the understanding that legislation passed by the General Conference becomes effective immediately throughout the entire church, except as provided in ¶ 575.

¶ 575. In a Central Conference or Provisional Central Conference using a language other than English, legislation passed by a General Conference shall not take effect until six months after the close of that General Conference, in order to afford the necessary time to make adaptations and to publish a translation of the legislation which has been enacted, which translation shall be approved by the resident bishop or bishops of the Central Conference. This provision, however, shall not exclude the election of delegates to the General Conference by Annual Conferences within the territory of Central Conferences or Provisional Central Conferences.

¶ 576. A Central Conference is authorized to interpret Article XXIII of the Articles of Religion so as to recog-

nize the government or governments of the country or countries within its territory.

¶ 577. A Central Conference shall have power to authorize the congregations in a certain state or country to form special organizations in order to receive the acknowledgment of the state or country according to the laws of that state or country. These organizations shall be empowered to represent the interests of the church to the authorities of the state or country according to the rules and principles of The Methodist Church, and they shall be required to give regular reports of their activities to their respective Annual Conferences.

¶ 578. A Central Conference may, with the consent of the bishops resident in that conference, enter into agreements with churches or missions of other denominations for the division of territory or of responsibility for Christian work within the territory of the Central Conference.

¶ 579. A Central Conference shall have the right to negotiate with other Protestant bodies looking toward the possibility of church union; *provided* that any proposals for church union shall be submitted to the General Conference for approval before consummation.

¶ 580. A Central Conference, where the laws of the land permit, shall have the power to organize and incorporate one or more executive committees, executive boards, or councils of co-operation, with such membership and such powers as may have been granted by the Central Conference, for the purpose of representing it in its property and legal interests and for transacting any necessary business that may arise in the interval between the sessions of the Central Conference, or that may be committed to said boards or committees by the Central Conferences.¹⁰

¶ 581. 1. A Central Conference, through a duly incorporated property-holding body or bodies, shall have authority to purchase, own, hold, or transfer property for and on behalf of The Methodist Church, and of all the unincorporated organizations of The Methodist Church within the territory of that Central Conference, or on

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 69.

behalf of other organizations of The Methodist Church which have entrusted their property to that Central Conference.

2. A Central Conference shall have authority to make the necessary rules and regulations for the holding and management of such properties; *provided*, however, (a) that all procedure shall be subject to the laws of the country or countries concerned; (b) that no transfer of property shall be made from one Annual Conference to another without the consent of the conference holding title to such property; (c) that the status of properties held by local trustees or other holding bodies shall be recognized.

3. A Central Conference shall not, directly or indirectly through its incorporated property-holding body or bodies, alienate property or the proceeds of property without due consideration of its trusteeship for local churches, Annual Conferences, the Board of Missions, and other organizations, local or general, of the church.

4. A Central Conference, or any of its incorporated organizations, shall not involve the Board of Missions or any organization of the church in any financial obligation without the official approval of said board or organization. All invested funds, fiduciary trusts, or property belonging to an Annual Conference, a Provisional Annual Conference, or a Mission, or any of its institutions acquired by bequests, donation, or otherwise, and designated for a specific use, shall be applied to the purpose for which they were designated. They shall not be diverted to any other purpose except by the consent of the conference or mission involved, and with the approval of the Central Conference concerned, and civil court action when necessary. The same rule shall apply to similar funds or properties acquired by a Central Conference for specific objects. In cases involving the diversion of trust funds and properties within the territory of a Central Conference, the Central Conference concerned shall determine the disposition of the interests involved subject to an appeal to the Judicial Court of the Central Conference.

¶ 582. For description of the *Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas* see ¶ 2012.

CHAPTER IV

PROVISIONAL CENTRAL CONFERENCES

§ 586. Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions outside the United States which are not included in Central Conferences or in the territory of affiliated autonomous churches, and which because of geographical, language, political, or other considerations have common interests that can best be served thereby, may be organized into **Provisional Central Conferences** as provided in § 541.

§ 587. The organization of Provisional Central Conferences shall conform to the regulations prescribed for Central Conferences (§§ 543-49) in so far as they are considered applicable by the bishop in charge.

§ 588. The General Conference may grant to a Provisional Central Conference any of the powers of a Central Conference except that of electing bishops.

§ 589. In the interval between General Conferences the Board of Missions, upon the recommendation of the bishops in charge and after consultation with the Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions concerned, may make changes in the boundaries of a Provisional Central Conference and may grant to a Provisional Central Conference or to any of its component parts any of the powers of a Central Conference except that of electing bishops. All changes in boundaries and all grants of powers authorized by the Board of Missions shall be reported to the ensuing session of the General Conference and shall expire at the close of that session unless renewed by the General Conference.

§ 590. An Annual Conference or a Provisional Annual Conference in the field of a Provisional Central Conference shall have the power to set standards of character and other qualifications for admission of its lay members.

§ 591. To Annual Conferences, Provisional Annual Conferences, and Missions which are outside the United States and are not included in Central Conferences or Provisional Central Conferences, the General Conference may grant

any of the powers of Central Conferences except that of electing bishops; and in the interval between General Conferences the Board of Missions may grant such powers when requested to do so by the bishop in charge and by the Annual Conference, Provisional Annual Conference, or Mission concerned.

§ 592. The General Conference shall make provision for the episcopal supervision of work in the territory outside the United States which is not now included in Central Conferences. (See § 2005.)

§ 593. The Council of Bishops may provide, if and when necessary, for episcopal visitation of mission fields not included in Central or Provisional Central Conferences. (See § 546.)

CHAPTER V

AFFILIATED AUTONOMOUS CHURCHES

§ 600. A self-governing church in whose establishment The Methodist Church has assisted and with which it is co-operating through its Board of Missions shall be known as an **affiliated autonomous church**. Relations between The Methodist Church and an affiliated autonomous church shall be such as may be mutually agreed on by the two churches. The Board of Missions shall serve as the agent of The Methodist Church in conferring with affiliated autonomous churches.

§ 601. Contractual agreements with the Methodist Church of Mexico, the Methodist Church of Brazil, the Methodist Church of Korea, and the Church of Christ in Japan entered into by the former Methodist Episcopal Church and/or the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, shall be continued until changed or modified by mutual agreement. The Board of Missions is authorized to harmonize and make uniform the present agreements and practices with respect to the four churches named above by extending to each of them any provision contained in the present agreement with any one of them,

if such change is desired by the affiliated autonomous church concerned and judged to be advisable by the Board of Missions.

¶ 602. The contractual agreements between The Methodist Church and the Methodist Church of Brazil, the Methodist Church of Korea, and the Methodist Church of Mexico include the following provisions:

1. Certificates of church membership given by ministers in one church shall be accepted by ministers in the others.

2. It shall be lawful for a minister to be transferred from an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference of The Methodist Church to an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference of the above-mentioned affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, and from an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference of any of the above-mentioned churches to an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, with the approval and consent of the bishops involved in the transfer.

3. Each affiliated autonomous church shall be entitled to two delegates, a national and a missionary, elected by the Central Council or Council of Co-operation of the affiliated autonomous church, to the General Conference of The Methodist Church, with all the rights and privileges of delegates, including travel and per diem paid from the General Administration Fund, except the right to vote.

4. The Board of Missions of The Methodist Church may appoint two delegates to the General Conference of each of the above-mentioned affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, who shall be entitled to all the privileges of delegates except the right to vote.

¶ 603. When an Annual Conference or a Provisional Annual Conference becomes a part of an affiliated autonomous Methodist church, the Council of Bishops may, at its discretion, transfer members of said conference, who desire transfer, to the conference from which they went to the mission field. If any have not previously had membership in another conference of The Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops may, at its discretion, transfer them to conferences as it may determine.

¶ 604. The Council of Bishops may assign one or more

of its members for episcopal visitation to the affiliated autonomous churches. (See ¶ 2005 § 3.)

¶ 605. United or other non-Methodist autonomous churches recognized by the Board of Missions as an area of its activity are authorized to send to the General Conference of The Methodist Church non-voting delegates, consisting of one national representative of the recognized church and one missionary of the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church, with travel and per diem allowance to be paid from the General Administration Fund.

CHAPTER VI

PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES

¶ 606. Any Mission established under the provisions of the Discipline may be constituted as a **Provisional Annual Conference** by the General Conference in consultation with the Central Conference, Provisional Central Conference, or Jurisdictional Conference within which the Mission is located; *provided* that no Provisional Annual Conference shall be organized with fewer than ten ministerial members, nor shall a Provisional Annual Conference be continued with fewer than six ministerial members.

¶ 607. A Provisional Annual Conference is authorized to exercise the powers of an Annual Conference subject to the approval of the presiding bishop; and its members shall share *pro rata* in the produce of The Methodist Publishing House with members of the Annual Conferences. A Provisional Annual Conference within the territory of a Central Conference or of a Provisional Central Conference may elect delegates to a Central Conference or Provisional Central Conference on the same basis as an Annual Conference, but may not elect delegates to a General Conference.¹¹

¹¹ Amended in 1948 following Judicial Council Decision 60, but see subsequent Constitutional Amendments IV, VII, VIII (¶¶ 7, 13, 24).

¶ 608. The bishop having episcopal supervision of a Provisional Annual Conference in a foreign or a home mission field may appoint a representative as **superintendent**, to whom may be committed specific responsibility for the representation of the Board of Missions in its relation to the indigenous church and also in co-operation with other recognized evangelical missions. Such duties shall be exercised so as not to interfere with the work of the district superintendent. This superintendent may also be a district superintendent, provided he is a member of the said conference. He shall be responsible directly to the bishop appointed to administer the work in that episcopal area, and he shall make adequate reports of the work and needs of his field to the bishop and to the secretaries of the Board of Missions immediately concerned.

¶ 609. If there is no bishop present at an annual session of a Provisional Annual Conference, the superintendent shall preside; but if there is no superintendent present, the presidency shall be determined as in an Annual Conference.

¶ 610. Each Provisional Annual Conference or Mission at its annual session shall appoint a standing committee whose duty it shall be, with the concurrence of the president of the conference, to make an estimate of the amount necessary for the support of each pastoral charge, either in full or supplementary to the amount raised by the charge. Such estimates shall be subject to modification by the division of the Board of Missions immediately concerned.

¶ 611. A charge within a Provisional Annual Conference or Mission may receive aid from the Board of Missions without having been designated by the conference at its meeting.

¶ 612. In Provisional Annual Conferences in the home field there shall be a Conference Board of Missions constituted as in an Annual Conference, and having the same duties and powers. (See ¶¶ 1295-1307.)

CHAPTER VII

MISSIONS

SECTION I. In the Home Field

¶ 615. 1. A Mission shall meet annually at the time and place appointed by the bishop in charge, who shall preside. In the absence of the bishop the superintendent of the Mission shall preside. The presiding officer shall bring forward the regular business of the meeting, and arrange the work. For rules governing the administration of Missions in the home field see ¶ 1238, also ¶¶ 591-93, 610-11.

SEC. II. In Foreign Fields

¶ 616. A foreign field outside of an Annual Conference, working under the care of the Board of Missions, not having met the requirements for the organization of a Provisional Annual Conference, may be organized into a Mission. For rules governing the administration of Missions in the foreign field see ¶ 1206, also ¶¶ 591-93, 610-11.

CHAPTER VIII

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SECTION I. Composition and Character

¶ 621. The composition and character of the **Annual Conference** are set forth in the Constitution (¶¶ 21-25).

¶ 622. Approved supply pastors who are in charge of pastoral appointments shall be seated in the Annual Conference session and given the privilege of speaking on any question, but without vote; *provided*, however, that an Annual Conference may by a three-fourths vote at the opening of the annual session grant to full-time approved supply pastors who are ordained elders and who have served charges during the past year the privilege of voting

at that session on all matters before the conference except those dealing with the ordination, character, and conference relations of ministers and the election of lay and ministerial delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences.¹²

¶ 623. Lay missionaries, both men and women, regularly appointed by the Board of Missions in fields outside the United States may be seated in the Annual Conference session and given the privileges of the floor without vote. By authorization of a Central Conference national lay workers may be given the same privileges.¹³ (See ¶ 1192 § 2.)

¶ 624. Deaconesses serving within the bounds of an Annual Conference shall be seated in the Annual Conference session and given the privileges of the floor without vote.

SEC. II.

Organization

¶ 625. Annual Conferences may become severally bodies corporate, wherever practicable, under the law of the countries, states, and territories within whose bounds they are located.¹⁴

¶ 626. The bishops shall appoint the times for holding the Annual Conferences.

¶ 627. The Annual Conference or a committee thereof shall select the place for holding the conference; but should it become necessary for any reason to change the place of meeting, a majority of the district superintendents, with the consent of the bishop in charge, may change the place. The Annual Conference has the right and power to provide for an adjourned session. The bishop, with the concurrence of three fourths of the district superintendents, may call a special session of the Annual Conference. This special session shall be composed of the ministerial members of the Annual Conference and of the lay members elected for the previous session of the Annual Conference.

¶ 628. A bishop shall preside over the Annual Confer-

¹² Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 112.

¹³ See Judicial Council Decisions 1, 24.

¹⁴ See Judicial Council Decisions 33, 108.

ence. In the absence of a bishop, the conference shall by ballot, without nomination or debate, elect a president from among the traveling elders. The president thus elected shall discharge all the duties of a bishop except ordination.

¶ 629. The Annual Conference at the first session following the General Conference or Jurisdictional or Central Conference (or, if it may desire, at the last session preceding the General Conference or Jurisdictional or Central Conference) shall elect a secretary and a statistician to serve for the succeeding quadrennium. (For the election and work of the treasurer of the Annual Conference see ¶¶ 792, 803-8.)

¶ 630. All members of the Annual Conference, including probationers, and all approved supply pastors shall attend the sessions of the Annual Conference, and they shall furnish to the Annual Conference such reports and in such form as the laws of the church may require.

SEC. III.

Powers and Duties

¶ 634. The Annual Conference may make rules to govern its own procedure; *provided* that no Annual Conference shall make any rule contrary to the Constitution or to the powers granted it by the General Conference. An Annual Conference cannot financially obligate The Methodist Church or an organizational unit thereof except the Annual Conference itself.¹⁵

¶ 635. An Annual Conference may admit into membership only those who have met all the Disciplinary requirements for membership and only in the manner prescribed in the Discipline.

¶ 636. The Annual Conference shall have power to hear complaints against its ministerial members and may try, reprove, suspend, deprive of ministerial office and credentials, expel, or acquit any against whom charges may have been preferred. The Annual Conference shall have power to locate a ministerial member for unacceptability or inefficiency.

¶ 637. The relation of a ministerial member of the

¹⁵ See Judicial Council Decisions 43, 92, 115, 119.

Annual Conference shall not be changed until he has had an opportunity to appear either in person or through a representative before the Committee on Conference Relations (¶ 668), except as provided in ¶¶ 377-78.

¶ 638. Every transfer of a traveling preacher is conditioned on the passing of his character by the conference to which he is amenable up to the time of his transfer. The official announcement that a preacher is transferred changes his membership so that his rights and responsibilities in the conference to which he goes begin from the date of his transfer.

¶ 639. The status of a ministerial member of the Annual Conference or of a probationer is further determined by those sections of the Discipline governing the ministry.

¶ 640. The Annual Conference shall provide adequate surety bonds for all officers handling funds of the conference and shall have the books of said officers audited annually. (See ¶¶ 729, 803, 807.)

¶ 641. The Annual Conference shall give recognition to any new churches that have been organized during the year and shall, through the presiding bishop and the secretary, send to each new church a **certificate of organization**, which the district superintendent shall on behalf of the conference present to the new church in an appropriate ceremony. (See ¶ 155.)

SEC. IV. The Business of the Conference

¶ 645. After religious services the secretary of the previous Annual Conference shall call the roll, including the roll of approved supply pastors. (See ¶¶ 319, 622, 630.) The conference shall complete its organization and proceed with its business.

¶ 646. Inquiries shall be made in the open conference as to whether all the ministerial members of the conference are blameless in their life and official administration. The district superintendent may answer for all the preachers in his district in one answer, if it be desired to call the name of each and every preacher in open session, or the Committee on Conference Relations (¶ 668) may make inquiry of each district superintendent about

each man in his district and make one report to the bishop and the conference in open session; *provided* that the conference may order an executive session of the ministerial members to consider questions relating to matters of ordination, character, and conference relations.¹⁶

¶ 647. The Committee on Conference Relations shall be prepared to answer at the call of the bishop the questions regarding the standing of all ministers in full connection in the conference: (a) all members of the Annual Conference whether effective, supernumerary, superannuated, on sabbatical leave, or students; (b) those transferred to other conferences during the year; (c) those transferred into the conference during the year.

¶ 648. At the conclusion of the examination of the standing of the ministers in the conference the presiding bishop may call to the bar of the conference the class to be admitted into full connection, and receive them into conference membership after asking the questions to be found in the Discipline. This examination of the ministers, and the passing of their characters, should be the business of one session.

¶ 649. Since the Annual Conference includes laymen and ministers, it is suggested that one single sitting of the conference should consider reports of the year's work. After the statistical questions have been answered, let the boards and committees of the conference make their reports for discussion and adoption.¹⁷ The special interests of the conference may also present reports of their work, regard being given by the bishop to a proper allotment of time.

¶ 650. It is suggested that for one or more sittings the conference give due consideration to the work of the coming year. The representatives of connectional interests and church-wide movements, as well as those charged with the responsibility for conference work and programs, should present their challenge and their objectives.

¶ 651. The business of the Annual Conference shall be to inquire:

¹⁶ See Judicial Council Decision 42.
¹⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 123.

I. Organization and General Business

1. Who are elected for the quadrennium: secretary? statistician? treasurer? (¶¶ 629, 803.)
2. Is the Annual Conference incorporated? (¶ 625.)
3. a) What officers handling funds of the conference have been bonded, and in what amounts? (¶¶ 640, 729, 807.)
b) Have the books of said officers or persons been audited? (¶¶ 640, 729, 803, 807.)
4. Have the conference boards, commissions, and committees (¶¶ 666-80) been appointed or elected:
 - a) Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications?
 - b) Committee on Conference Relations?
 - c) District Committees on Ministerial Qualifications (¶ 695)?
 - d) Committee of Investigation?
 - e) District Boards of Church Location and Building (¶ 721)?
 - f) Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference?
 - g) Commission on World Service and Finance?
 - h) Commission on Town and Country Work?
 - i) Deaconess Board?
 - j) Board of Missions?
 - k) Board of Education?
 - l) Board of Temperance?
 - m) Board of Lay Activities?
 - n) Board of Hospitals and Homes?
 - o) Board of Evangelism?
 - p) Board of Pensions?
 - q) Commission on Christian Vocations?
 - r) Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service?
 - s) Commission on Minimum Salaries?
 - t) Commission on Promotion and Cultivation?
 - u) Committee on Reserve Pensions?
 - v) Quadrennial Committee on Local-Church Goals?
 - w) Optional commissions and committees?
5. Have the secretaries, treasurers, and statisticians kept their respective records upon and according to the forms prescribed by The Methodist Church? (¶ 662.)
6. What is the report of the statistician?
7. What is the report of the treasurer?

8. What are the reports of the district superintendents as to the status of the work within their districts?
9. What is the schedule of minimum salaries for pastors? (¶ 826.)
10. What is the plan and what are the approved claims for the support of the district superintendents for the ensuing year? (¶¶ 801-2.)
11. What amount has been apportioned to the pastoral charges within the conference to be raised for the support of conference claimants? (¶¶ 1623, 1645 § 4.)
12. What are the apportionments to this conference:
 - a) For the World Service Fund?
 - b) For the Episcopal Fund?
 - c) For the General Administration Fund?
 - d) For the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund?
 - e) For the Jurisdictional Administration Fund?
13. What is the percentage division between world service and conference benevolences for the current year: world service? conference? (¶ 795.)
14. What are the reports, recommendations, and plans of the conference agencies:
 - a) What is the report of the Board of Pensions, and what appropriations for conference claimants are reported and approved? (¶ 1623.)
 - b) What is the report of the Board of Missions of disbursements of missionary aid within the conference? (¶ 1303.)
 - c) What is the report of the Commission on World Service and Finance? (¶¶ 791-812.)
 - d) What is the report of the Commission on Christian Vocations? (¶¶ 675-77.)
 - e) What are the other reports?
15. What Methodist institutions or organizations are approved by the conference for annuity responsibility? (¶ 1618 §§ 2c, 9.)
16. What date is determined for Golden Cross Enrollment Sunday? (¶ 1559.)
17. a) Who is the conference lay leader? (¶ 1507.)
b) What is his report?
c) Who are the district and associate district lay leaders? (¶ 1510.)

18. What local churches have been:
 - a) Organized? (¶155.)
 - b) Merged? (¶¶186-87.)
 - c) Discontinued? (¶¶126, 188, 354.)
 - d) Relocated, and to what address?
 - e) Transferred into this conference from the Central Jurisdiction, and with what membership: this year? previously? (¶ 532.)

II. Pertaining to Ministerial Relations

19. Are all the ministerial members of the conference blameless in their life and official administration?
20. Who constitute the Conference Committee of Investigation? (¶ 931.)
21. Who are the approved supply pastors:
 - a) Student approved supply pastors (¶¶ 317 § 1, 318), and in what schools are they enrolled?
 - b) Part-time approved supply pastors (¶¶ 317 § 2, 318), and what progress has each made in the course of study?
 - c) Full-time approved supply pastors (¶¶ 317 § 3, 318), and what progress has each made in the course of study?
22. What approved supply pastors are credited with annuity claim on account of full-time service during the past year? (¶ 1631.)
23. What preachers, coming from other evangelical churches, have had their orders recognized (¶ 411): as local deacons? as local elders?
24. Who have been admitted from other evangelical churches as traveling preachers:
 - a) As members on trial: deacons? elders?
 - b) As members in full connection: deacons? elders?
25. Who are admitted on trial:
 - a) With degrees from approved colleges and credits from approved schools of theology? (¶¶ 323-24.)
 - b) With degrees from colleges not accredited by the University Senate and credits from approved schools of theology? (¶ 325 § 1.)
 - c) With degrees from approved colleges and comple-

- tion of the introductory studies for the ministry? (¶ 325 § 2.)
- d) With partial college credit, completion of the four-year course of study, and six years' service as approved supply pastors? (¶ 325 § 3.)
26. Who are continued on trial, and what progress have they made in their ministerial studies (¶ 330):
 - a) In approved schools of theology?
 - b) In the four-year course of study?
 - c) In the two years of special study? (¶ 343 § 2.)
27. Who on trial are discontinued?
28. Who are admitted into full connection?
29. Who have been elected deacons (¶ 393):
 - a) Theological students?
 - b) Members on trial in the course of study?
 - c) Approved supply pastors?
 - d) Other local preachers?
 - e) Missionaries?
 - f) Chaplains?
30. Who have been ordained deacons?
31. Who have been elected elders (¶ 403):
 - a) Theological graduates?
 - b) Course of study graduates?
 - c) Approved supply pastors?
 - d) Other local preachers?
 - e) Missionaries?
 - f) Chaplains?
32. Who have been ordained elders?
33. Who have been admitted or ordained to accommodate other conferences¹⁸:

¹⁸ Members of this conference who were admitted or ordained through the accommodation of other conferences during the year should be listed under Questions 24-32, whichever are appropriate, along with their fellow members who were admitted or ordained at the current session. In each case the date and accommodating conference should be recorded. Under Question 33 should be listed persons, now members of other conferences, who were members of this conference only during the period necessary for their admission or ordination, if at all. In each case the conference of which the person is now a member, and any other conference involved, should be recorded. Transfers preceding or following actual service in this conference should be listed under Questions 38-37.

- a) Admitted: on trial? into full connection?
- b) Ordained after election by this conference: deacons? elders?
- c) Ordained after election by other conferences: deacons? elders?
- 34. Who are readmitted: as deacons? as elders?
- 35. What retired members have been made effective?
- 36. Who have been received by transfer?
- 37. Who have been transferred out?
- 38. Who have had their conference membership terminated:
 - a) By voluntary location?
 - b) By involuntary location?
 - c) By withdrawal?
 - d) By judicial procedure (expelled)?
- 39. a) What ministerial members have died during the year?
 - b) What approved supply pastors have died during the year?
 - c) What deaconesses have died during the year?
- 40. Who are the supernumerary ministers, and for what number of years consecutively has each held this relation? (¶ 365.)
- 41. Who are granted sabbatical leave? (¶ 364.)
- 42. What ministerial members have been retired: this year? previously?
- 43. What approved supply pastors have been retired: this year? previously?
- 44. Who are appointed to attend school?
- 45. a) What is the number: of pastoral charges? of approved supply pastors? received on trial? received into full connection? transferred in? transferred out? received from other evangelical churches? readmitted? discontinued? withdrawn? expelled? located? deceased? of local preachers? of women under appointment? of retired ministers made effective? of retired ministers serving as supply pastors? of district parsonages, with their total value and indebtedness thereon?
- b) What is the number of ministers:
 - (1) On trial: as pastors? under special appointment? appointed to attend school? total?

- (2) In full connection: as pastors and district superintendents? under special appointment? appointed to attend school? on sabbatical leave? total effective? retired? supernumerary?
- (3) Total of all ministers?

46. What other personal notation should be made?

III. Concluding Business

- 47. What are the detailed objectives of this conference for the coming year?
- 48. Where shall the next session of the conference be held?
- 49. Is there any other business?
- 50. What changes have been made in appointments since the last conference session?
- 51. Where are the preachers stationed for the ensuing year?
- 652. For other directions about the program of Annual Conference sessions see ¶¶ 1301, 1441, 1504, 1610 § 5.

SEC. V. Records and Archives

¶ 656. The Annual Conference shall keep an exact record of its proceedings (¶ 658), according to the forms provided by the General, Jurisdictional, and Central Conferences. It shall send to its Jurisdictional Conference or Central Conference a bound copy of the minutes of the quadrennium for examination, said copy to be returned to the secretary of the Annual Conference to be placed in the archives (¶ 663) of the conference. If there be no archives of the Annual Conference, then the secretary shall keep the bound copy to be handed on to his successor in office.

657. Each Annual Conference shall send to the Council on World Service and Finance two printed or written copies of its annual journal signed by its president and secretary, one copy being for the Statistical Office and the other for the File of Pastors and Church Officials.

658. The General Conference recommends the following divisions, in the order named, for the Annual Conference journals:

- I. Officers of Annual Conference.
- II. Boards, Commissions, Committees. Rolls of Conference Members.
- III. Daily Proceedings.
- IV. Disciplinary Questions.
- V. Appointments.
- VI. Reports.
- VII. Memoirs.
- VIII. Roll of Dead, Deceased Ministerial Members.
- IX. Historical.
- X. Miscellaneous.
- XI. Pastoral Record (including the records of accepted supply pastors in such manner as the conference may determine).
- XII. Index.

¶ 659. An Annual Conference in the United States shall include in its journal a list of the missionaries, ministerial and lay, active and retired, who have gone from the conference into the active service of the church in fields outside the United States and its territories. The General Board of Missions shall furnish such lists to the secretaries of the Annual Conferences.

¶ 660. For further directions on the content of Annual Conference journals see ¶ 362 §§ 4, 10, ¶ 431 § 9, ¶¶ 812, 829-30, ¶ 1254 §§ 4c, 7, ¶ 1296 § 1, ¶ 1451 § 2, ¶ 1612 § 6, ¶ 1618 § 4, ¶ 1629.

¶ 661. The secretary of each Annual Conference shall keep a service record, together with the dates of birth and marriage, of all ministerial members of the Annual Conference. This record shall be available for use by the Conference Board of Pensions of that conference and any other conference supplemental organization existing under ¶ 1611, and by the General Board of Pensions.

¶ 662. All records of secretaries, statisticians, and treasurers shall be kept according to the forms prescribed by the laws of the church.

¶ 663. In each Annual Conference there shall be a **Historical Society**, to be appointed or elected in whatever manner the conference may decide, whose duties it shall be to preserve the records of the conference, gather all data referring to its organization, its past history, its

former members, and to collect all data of interest from elderly persons and to preserve these for future generations, together with a record of current items of importance, and to keep before the minds of our people the glorious deeds of the heroes of the past. (See ¶¶ 1591-92.)

SEC. VI. Conference Agencies

¶ 666. The Annual Conference at the first session following the General Conference or Jurisdictional or Central Conference shall appoint or elect such quadrennial boards, commissions, or committees as shall be ordered by the General Conference or the Jurisdictional or the Central Conference of which the said Annual Conference is a part, or by the Annual Conference itself, for the purpose of promoting the work of The Methodist Church within the bounds of the said Annual Conference. The powers and duties of said boards, commissions, and committees shall be prescribed by the conference authorizing them or as defined in certain paragraphs of this Discipline. Members of the above boards, commissions, and committees shall hold office until their successors are elected.¹⁸

¶ 667. In the appointment of Annual Conference committees the provisions of the Discipline concerning membership requirements shall be held to be *minimum* requirements; each Annual Conference may make its committees of such size as its work may need.

¶ 668. The Annual Conference shall elect a **Committee on Conference Relations**. This committee shall consist of not fewer than six traveling elders, arranged as far as practical in classes to serve three years each. It shall make recommendations to the Annual Conference concerning the relations of all elders in full connection seeking to become: superannuated or retired members, supernumeraries, ministers on sabbatical leave, students appointed to attend school.

¶ 669. 1. Each Annual Conference at the first session following the General Conference shall elect for a term of four years a **Board of Ministerial Training and Quali-**

¹⁸ See Judicial Council Decision 98.

fications, consisting of not fewer than six nor more than twenty-five members nominated by the presiding bishop after consultation with the chairman of the board of the previous quadrennium, or with a committee of the board, and with the Cabinet. It is recommended that the Conference Board of Education have due representation and that at least two thirds of the members be graduates of colleges and schools of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate. Vacancies shall be filled by the bishop after consultation with the chairman of the board.

2. The board shall organize by electing one of its members chairman and another registrar.

3. The board shall convene at the seat and time of the Annual Conference, preferably the day before the session opens, to review and complete the work of the past year and to plan for the future.

4. The board shall work in co-operation with the Department of Ministerial Education (¶¶ 1372-76, 2041).

¶ 670. The board shall seek, in co-operation with the Commission on Christian Vocations (¶¶ 675-77), with the bishop, district superintendents, pastors, and laymen of the conference, and with the Department of Ministerial Education and the Methodist schools of theology, to enlist suitable candidates for the Christian ministry. It shall seek in every way practicable to provide guidance and counsel to them in their training and preparation for the ministry, recommending colleges and schools of theology accredited or approved by the University Senate. It shall co-operate with our schools of theology by recommending from the Annual Conference students with definite ministerial promise.

¶ 671. The board shall examine (a) all applicants for employment as approved supply pastors and (b) for admission on trial as to their fitness for the ministry, as provided in ¶¶ 314-18, 321-30, and shall make full inquiry as to the fitness of (c) candidates for admission into full connection. This must include an examination as to character, habits of life, conversion, call to the ministry, Christian experience, evangelistic and missionary concern, age, domestic situation, co-operation with others, ability to lead a service of worship, and understanding of

the Church's mission. (See ¶¶ 341-45.) The answers to the examination questions may be submitted in writing. The board shall also report recommendations concerning: (d) candidates for ordination as deacons; (e) candidates for ordination as elders; (f) those to be received from other churches; (g) those transferred into the conference who are not elders in full connection; and (h) students, not yet elders in full connection, to be appointed to attend school and assigned to a Quarterly Conference (¶ 431 § 6, ¶ 432 § 7).

¶ 672. The board shall certify all information and recommendations concerning each candidate to the Annual Conference in duplicate. One copy of this record is to be kept by the registrar of the board, and one copy is to be mailed after each conference session to the Department of Ministerial Education.

¶ 673. The board shall urge all members on trial to attend colleges and schools of theology related to The Methodist Church and accredited or approved by the University Senate, and shall encourage and assist them in every practicable way to complete the preparation recommended in ¶¶ 342, 344. It shall require and assist all who are not attending an approved school of theology to pursue promptly their correspondence studies (¶¶ 330, 343).

¶ 674. 1. The registrar of the board shall keep a full personnel record, including transcripts of academic credit, for all ministerial candidates within the bounds of the conference.

2. He shall keep a permanent record of the standing of the students in the course of study, and report to the conference when required. This record shall include the credits allowed students for work done in graduate schools of theology (¶ 327), in standard pastors' schools, and by correspondence.

3. The registrar, or some other designated officer of the board, shall keep a record of the educational history and interests of each minister serving in the conference. This material shall be furnished to the board by active ministers. Such records are the property of the conference and shall be carefully preserved.

¶ 675. In each Annual Conference there shall be a **Commission on Christian Vocations**, composed of: a representative of the Cabinet; the executive secretary of the Conference Board of Education; the conference director of youth work; the chairman (or registrar) of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications; the secretary of missionary personnel of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service; one representative each from the Conference Boards of Hospitals and Homes, Missions, Lay Activities, and Evangelism; one representative each from the Conference Deaconess Board, the Conference Committee on World Peace, and the state or regional Methodist Student Movement; and one youth under twenty-three years of age. The Cabinet or the commission may appoint other members when advisable.

¶ 676. It shall be the duty of this commission: (a) to co-operate with the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations (¶ 1415), and with the Committee on Christian Vocations in every local church (¶ 145 § 9); (b) to promote among youth and adults a philosophy of Christian vocation that recognizes the potential sacredness of all useful work and all opportunities for Christian life service; (c) to organize a program for presenting to youth and adults the opportunities and claims of the pastoral ministry and other church vocations; (d) to take into account the basic interests and aptitudes of interested youth and adults and inform them of the necessary preparation for specific church vocations; (e) to keep accurate and useful records of each youth who has indicated an interest in church vocations from the time of his first commitment until he is appointed to full-time work in the church, or until such time as responsibility for him is accepted by the proper conference board or commission.

¶ 677. Each Annual Conference, in whatever way it may decide, shall make adequate provision for the financial support of the work of its Commission on Christian Vocations so that the commission may be able to carry forward an effective program of promotion and guidance in the field of Christian vocations.

¶ 678. An Annual Conference may, if it so desires, unify into one **Board of Christian Social Relations** the

functions and concerns of any two or all of the following agencies: Committee on World Peace, Board of Temperance, and Board of Social and Economic Relations.

¶ 679. There may be in any Annual Conference a **Conference or Interboard Council**, composed of representatives of all conference boards and commissions, the bishop and his Cabinet, other administrative officers, and other agencies as the conference may determine, for the purpose of correlating the planning and promotion of the program of the church.¹⁹

¶ 680. For other Annual Conference agencies see as follows: Quadrennial Committee on Christian Higher Education, ¶ 2018; Deaconess Board, ¶ 1254; Distributing Committee, ¶ 1609; Board of Education, ¶¶ 1441-55; Board of Evangelism, ¶¶ 1478-80; Committee on Family Life, ¶ 1452; Board of Hospitals and Homes, ¶ 1561; Committee of Investigation, ¶¶ 923, 931-36; Board of Lay Activities, ¶¶ 1503-7; Quadrennial Committee on Local Church Goals, ¶ 2017; Commission on Minimum Salaries, ¶ 826; Board of Missions, ¶¶ 1295-1307; Board of Pensions, ¶¶ 1611, 1623-37; Committee on Proportional Payment of Ministerial Support, ¶ 1611; Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, ¶ 755; Committee on Public Relations and Methodist Information, ¶ 1590; Committee on Reserve Pensions, ¶ 1656 § 6; Board of Social and Economic Relations, ¶ 1550; Television Ministry Committee, ¶ 764; Television, Radio, and Film Commission, ¶ 1583; Board of Temperance, ¶¶ 1532-33; Commission on Town and Country Work, ¶ 1231; Board of Trustees, ¶¶ 711-12; Woman's Society of Christian Service, ¶ 1256; Committee on World Peace, ¶ 1542; Commission on World Service and Finance, ¶¶ 791-830.

CHAPTER IX

THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

¶ 686. A District Conference shall be held annually in each district if authorized by the Annual Conference.

¹⁹ Adopted in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 98.

The district superintendent shall preside. If the district superintendent be absent, the District Conference is authorized to elect a chairman.

¶ 687. A District Conference shall be composed of all the preachers—traveling, including retired and supernumerary, and local—the deaconesses, the church lay leader, church-school superintendent, and president of the Woman's Society of Christian Service from each local church in the district, the district stewards, the district trustees, the district lay leader and associate district lay leaders, the lay member of the Annual Conference from each charge, the president of the District Woman's Society of Christian Service, the district directors of children's, youth, adult, and general church-school work, and such other persons as the Annual Conference may determine.

¶ 688. The district superintendent shall fix the date of the District Conference, but the District Conference shall fix the place. Should it become necessary to change the place, the district superintendent shall have authority to change it. The district superintendent may call special sessions when necessity requires.

¶ 689. The District Conference shall inquire particularly into the condition of the several charges concerning: (1) their spiritual state (¶¶ 1481-82); (2) the missionary work of and in the district (¶¶ 1300, 1302 § 2); (3) the Christian education work through the church schools, including vacation schools and Methodist Youth Fellowships; (4) the women's work (¶ 1257); (5) the support of the church colleges and the attendance upon them; (6) the work done in and for the American Bible Society; (7) the lay activities, especially in behalf of benevolences and Christian stewardship, and in promoting worship in unserved sections and communities; (8) the work of and for our hospitals and homes; (9) the patronage of the church papers and our Publishing House; (10) the candidates for the ministry from the district and aid in their preparation; (11) the candidates for other forms of Christian service; (12) the support of the church, its ministry and its benevolences, and the financial systems that are being used. The District Conference shall receive for examination an annual report from the Committee on Rec-

ords and History (¶ 145 § 4), of each Quarterly Conference.

¶ 690. The District Conference shall vote on issuing or renewing licenses to preach, on recommendation of the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, and shall consider for approval the reports of this committee, as provided in ¶ 695.

¶ 691. The District Conference may choose its own order of business, provided that all the business committed to it is transacted. The secretary duly elected shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings and submit it to the Annual Conference for examination.

¶ 695. 1. There shall be a **District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications**, composed of the district superintendent as chairman and five other traveling preachers of the district, nominated annually by him, and approved by the Annual Conference. Interim vacancies may be filled by the chairman.

2. The committee shall examine each person who applies in writing for a license to preach, or for a renewal of such license. Where there is evidence that his gifts, grace, and usefulness warrant and that he is qualified under ¶¶ 306-7, it may, on recommendation of his Quarterly Conference (¶ 146 § 1), recommend to the District Conference to issue or renew his license to preach; *provided*, however, that where no District Conference exists, final action may be taken by the committee; and *provided*, further, that before the ballot for licensing a person to preach is taken he shall have agreed to the condition set forth in ¶ 306 § 5. (*See* ¶ 362 § 4.)

3. The committee shall recommend to the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications of the Annual Conference suitable candidates for acceptance or continuance as approved supply pastors, for admission on trial, for local deacon's orders, for local elder's orders, and for restoration of credentials.

4. The vote of the committee in all such matters shall be by individual written ballot, and a three-fourths majority vote of the committee shall be required for license or approval.

5. The committee shall report its work to the District Conference for approval where such conference exists.

6. The chairman and another representative of the committee shall meet annually with the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, on call of the chairman of the board, either separately or with representatives of all the districts.

7. The committee shall designate an official spokesman, other than the chairman, to confer with the board, when so requested, about any candidate recommended to it by the committee.²⁰

¶ 696. For other district agencies see as follows: Board of Church Location and Building, ¶¶ 721-24; Committee on Evangelism, ¶¶ 1481-83; Board of Lay Activities, ¶¶ 1508-10; Methodist Men, ¶ 1511; missionary society, ¶¶ 1218-28; Board of Stewards, ¶¶ 797, 802; Board of Trustees, ¶ 716; Woman's Society of Christian Service, ¶ 1257.

CHAPTER X

THE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

¶ 699. The organization, powers, and duties of the Quarterly Conference are described in ¶¶ 137-55, under Part II, The Local Church.

²⁰ Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 100.

PART V

TEMPORAL ECONOMY

CHAPTER I

CHURCH PROPERTY

SECTION I. The Name "Methodist"

¶ 701. The word "Methodist" is not by our approval or consent to be used as, or as a part of, a trade name or trade mark or as, or as a part of, the name of any business firm or organization except by corporations or other business units created for the administration of work undertaken directly by The Methodist Church.

SEC. II. Incorporated Trustees of The Methodist Church

¶ 703. There shall be a board of trustees incorporated under the name of **The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Church**. This board shall be composed of three ministers and four lay persons. They shall be nominated, without reference to jurisdictional membership, by the Council of Bishops and be elected by the General Conference for a term of eight years, except as to the first such board, of which one clerical and two lay members shall be elected for a term of four years, and two clerical and two lay members shall be elected for a term of eight years, and they shall serve until their successors have been elected and qualified. Between General Conferences the Council of Bishops is designated to act on resignations and to fill vacancies in the membership of this board until the next session of the General Conference.

¶ 704. This corporation shall receive and administer new trusts and funds, and so far as may be legal be the successor in trust of "The Trustees of The Methodist

Episcopal Church," a corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio, and of "The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South," a corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Tennessee, and of the "Board of Trustees of The Methodist Protestant Church," a corporation incorporated under the laws of the state of Maryland; and so far as is legal and as such successor in trust it shall be and is authorized and empowered to receive from its said predecessor corporations all trust funds and assets of every kind and character, real, personal, or mixed, held by them or any one of them; and it shall be and is authorized to administer such trusts and funds in accordance with the conditions under which they have been previously received and administered by said predecessor corporations. But nothing herein contained shall be construed to require the dissolution of the three corporations above mentioned, and they shall continue to administer such funds as may not be legally transferred to the new corporation. There shall be a correlating committee of nine members, of which three shall be appointed by each of the existing corporations. This committee shall have authority to secure a charter for the new corporation and to arrange the details for handling the trusts in accordance with their terms.¹

¶ 705. The object and duty of this board shall be to receive, collect, and hold in trust for the benefit of The Methodist Church any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed unto said board or to The Methodist Church as such for any benevolent, charitable, or religious purpose, and to administer the same and the income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator, and in the interests of the church, society, institution, or agency contemplated by such donors, trustors, or testators under the direction of the General Conference. The board shall have power, in its discretion, and on the advice of competent investment counsel, to invest, reinvest, buy, sell,

¹ As provided in this paragraph, The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Church was incorporated under the laws of the state of Ohio in 1940.

transfer, and convey any and all funds and properties which it may hold in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise, or donation.

¶ 706. The board may intervene and take all necessary legal steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of The Methodist Church anywhere, in all matters relating to property and rights to property whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust or established for the benefit of The Methodist Church or its membership; or abandoned church property, where Annual Conference trustees neglect to take necessary steps to protect the interests of the members of The Methodist Church in such property.

¶ 707. It shall be the duty of the pastor within the bounds of whose charge any such gift, bequest, or devise is made to give prompt notice thereof to said board, which shall proceed to take such steps as are necessary and proper to conserve, protect, and administer the same. But the board may decline to receive or administer any such gift, devise, or bequest for any reason satisfactory to the board.

¶ 708. The board shall make to each General Conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings, of all funds, moneys, securities, and property held in trust by it, and of its receipts and disbursements during the quadrennium. The beneficiary of a fund held in trust by the board shall be entitled to a report at least annually on the condition of such fund and on the transactions affecting it.

¶ 709. There shall be a fund known as **The Permanent Fund** to be held and administered by the board, the principal of which shall be kept intact forever, and the interest accumulating from said fund shall be used by the board as the General Conference shall direct.

SEC. III. Annual Conference Trustees

¶ 711. 1. Each Annual Conference shall have an incorporated **Board of Trustees**.² This board shall consist of nine persons, who must be at least twenty-one years of age and shall be ministers in the effective relation in the

² See Judicial Council Decision 108.

Annual Conference or members in good standing of local churches within the bounds of the Annual Conference, and such persons shall be the directors of the corporation. They shall be elected by the Annual Conference for a term of three years, except as to the first board, one third of whom shall be elected for a term of one year, one third for a term of two years, and one third for a term of three years, and shall serve until their successors have been elected; *provided*, however, that existing incorporated trustees of any Annual Conference may continue unaffected by this subsection unless and until such charter is amended.

2. The said corporation shall receive, collect, and hold in trust for the benefit of the Annual Conference any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed to the said board or to the Annual Conference as such for any benevolent, charitable, or religious purpose, and shall administer the same and the income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator, and in the interest of the church, society, institution, or agency contemplated by such donor, trustor, or testator, under the direction of the Annual Conference. The board shall have power to invest, reinvest, buy, sell, transfer, and convey any and all funds and properties which it may hold in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise, or donation; *provided*, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to churches, colleges, orphanages, or incorporated boards. When the use to be made of any such donation, bequest, or devise is not otherwise designated, the same shall be added to and become a part of the "Permanent Fund" of the Annual Conference. Funds committed to this board may be invested by it only in collateral that is amply secured and after such investments have been approved by the said board or its agency or committee charged with such investment, unless otherwise directed by the Annual Conference.

3. The board may intervene and take all necessary legal steps to safeguard and protect the interests and rights of the Annual Conference anywhere, and in all matters re-

lating to property and rights to property whether arising by gift, devise, or otherwise, or where held in trust or established for the benefit of the Annual Conference or its membership.

4. It shall be the duty of the pastor within the bounds of whose charge any such gift, bequest, or devise is made to give prompt notice thereof to said board, which shall proceed to take such steps as are necessary and proper to conserve, protect, and administer the same; *provided*, however, that the board may decline to receive or administer any such gift, devise, or bequest for any reason satisfactory to the board. It shall also be the duty of the pastor to report annually to the Board of Trustees of his Annual Conference a list of all property including real, personal, or mixed, within his charge belonging to or which should be under the control or jurisdiction of the said board.

5. The board shall make to each session of the Annual Conference a full, true, and faithful report of its doings, of all funds, moneys, securities, and property held in trust by it, and of its receipts and disbursements during the conference year. The beneficiary of a fund held in trust by the board shall also be entitled to a report at least annually on the condition of such fund and on the transactions affecting it.

¶ 712. When authorized by two thirds of the Annual Conferences comprising an episcopal area, an **episcopal residence** for the resident bishop may be acquired, which shall be under the management and control of, and the title to which shall be held in trust by, the trustees of the Annual Conference within which the residence is located; and the purchase price and maintenance cost thereof shall be equitably distributed by the trustees among the several conferences in the area. Any such property so acquired and held shall not be sold or disposed of except with the consent of a majority of the conferences that participate in the ownership. Should an Annual Conference contribute to the purchase of an episcopal residence and later be transferred to an area not owning one, if it shall ask payment for its equity, such claim shall not be denied.

SEC. IV.

District Property

¶ 716. 1. A **district parsonage** for the district superintendent may be acquired, when authorized by the Quarterly Conferences of two thirds of the charges in the district, or when authorized by a two-thirds vote of the District Conference; *provided* that at least thirty days' notice of such proposed action shall have been given in writing by the district superintendent to the pastor and district steward of each charge.

2. The title of district property may be held in trust by a **District Board of Trustees** of not fewer than three nor more than nine persons of the same qualifications provided for trustees of local churches (¶ 159), who shall be nominated by the district superintendent and elected by the District Conference. Where there is no District Conference, they may be elected by the District Board of Stewards or by the Annual Conference on nomination of the district superintendent. They shall be elected for a term of one year and serve until their successors shall have been elected, and shall report annually to the District Conference or Annual Conference. If the title to the district parsonage is not held by a District Board of Trustees, the same shall be held in trust by the trustees of the Annual Conference of which such district is a part, and such trustees shall report annually to the Annual Conference. Except as the laws of the state, territory, or country prescribe otherwise, district property held in trust by a District Board of Trustees may be mortgaged or sold and conveyed by them only by authority of the District Conference or Annual Conference; or, if such property is held in trust by the trustees of the Annual Conference, it may be mortgaged or sold and conveyed by such trustees only by authority of the Annual Conference. The purchase price and maintenance cost of a district parsonage shall be equitably distributed among the charges of the district by the District Board of Stewards.

3. When district boundaries are changed by division, rearrangement, or consolidation, so that a district parsonage purchased, owned, and maintained by one district is included within the bounds of another district, each such district shall be entitled to receive its just share of the

then reasonable value of the parsonage in which it has invested funds; and the amount of such value and just share shall be determined by a committee of three persons, appointed by the bishop of the area, who shall not be residents of any of the said districts. The committee shall hear claims of each district regarding its interest therein before making decision. From any such determination there is reserved unto each of the interested districts the right of appeal to the next succeeding Annual Conference. Any sum received as or from such share shall be used for no other purpose than purchase or building of a parsonage in the district. The same procedure shall be followed in determining equities of a district in any other property which may be included in another district by changes in district boundaries.

SEC. V. **District Board of Church Location and Building**

¶ 721. There shall be in each district of an Annual Conference a **District Board of Church Location and Building** consisting of the district superintendent, three ministers, and three laymen nominated by the district superintendent and elected annually by the Annual Conference; *provided* that in a district of great geographical extent an additional board may be so elected. The board shall file a report of any actions taken with the Quarterly Conference of each local church involved, and the report so filed shall become a part of the minutes of the said conference or conferences. The board shall also make a written report to the District Conference (or, if there is no District Conference, to the district superintendent), and this report shall become a part of the records of that conference.

¶ 722. The board shall investigate all proposed local church building sites, ascertaining that such sites are properly located for the community to be served, and adequate in size to provide space for future expansion and parking facilities. (See ¶ 155 § 1, ¶ 180 § 2.)

¶ 723. 1. The board shall require any local church in its district, before beginning or contracting for construction or purchase of a new church or educational building

or a parsonage, or remodeling of such a building if the cost will exceed ten per cent of its value, to submit for consideration and approval a statement of the need for the proposed facilities; preliminary architectural sketches; an estimate of the cost, and a financial plan for defraying such cost, as provided in ¶ 180 §§ 4-5. The board may submit the architectural sketches for review as provided in ¶ 1237 and ¶ 1401 § 1.

2. When the local church has secured final architectural plans and specifications and a reliable and detailed estimate of the cost of the proposed undertaking as provided in ¶ 180 § 7, the board shall require their submission for consideration and approval. The board shall study carefully the feasibility and financial soundness of the undertaking, and ascertain whether the financial plan will provide funds necessary to assure prompt payment of all proposed contractual obligations; and it shall report its conclusions to the church in writing.

¶ 724. A decision of the board disapproving such purchase, building, or remodeling shall be final unless overruled by the Annual Conference, to which there is reserved unto the local church the right of appeal.

SEC. VI. Local-Church Property

¶ 725. Regulations governing local-church property and the election and duties of trustees of local churches are set forth in ¶¶ 151-94 of Part II, The Local Church.

SEC. VII. Sundry Provisions

¶ 728. Trustees of schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, homes, orphanages, institutes, and other institutions owned or controlled by The Methodist Church shall be at least twenty-one years of age. At all times not less than three-fourths of them shall be members of The Methodist Church; and all must be nominated, confirmed, or elected by some governing body of the church, or by some body or officer thereof to which or to whom this power has been delegated by the governing body of the church; *provided* that the number of trustees of any such institution owned or controlled by any Annual Conference or Conferences required to be members of The Methodist

Church may be reduced to not less than the majority by a three-fourths vote of such Annual Conference or Conferences; and *provided*, further, that when an institution is owned and operated jointly with some other denomination or organization, said requirement that three-fourths of the trustees shall be members of The Methodist Church shall apply only to the portion of the trustees representing The Methodist Church.

¶ 729. All persons holding trust funds, securities, or moneys of any kind belonging to the General Conference or to Annual or Provisional Annual Conferences or to organizations under the control of the General, Annual, or Provisional Annual Conferences, shall be bonded in a reliable company in such good and sufficient sum as the conference may direct. The accounts of such persons shall be audited at least annually by a recognized public or certified public accountant. (See ¶¶ 803, 807.) A report to an Annual Conference containing a financial statement which the Discipline requires to be audited shall not be approved until the audit is made and the financial statement is shown to be correct. Other parts of the report may be approved pending such audit.³

¶ 730. Whenever the law of the state, territory, or country in which is located any property of The Methodist Church, its agencies or subdivisions, or the provisions of an existing charter of a corporation organized and holding property for such purposes, require otherwise than in this chapter prescribed, such law or charter shall apply and be substituted for such of the provisions of this chapter as are in conflict with such law or charter.⁴

CHAPTER II

CHURCH FINANCE

SECTION I. General Statement

¶ 731. The work of the church requires the support of our people, and participation therein through service

³ Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 77.

⁴ See Judicial Council Decision 93.

and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In order that all members of The Methodist Church may share in its manifold ministries at home and abroad and that the work committed to us may prosper, the financial plan which follows has been duly approved and adopted.

¶ 732. The various causes, funds, and budgets of The Methodist Church shall be known and designated as follows: (1) **world service**, the general benevolences of The Methodist Church, approved by the General Conference and included in the world service budget; (2) **conference benevolences**, the Annual Conference benevolences and causes, approved by the conference and included in the conference benevolence budget; (3) the **world service budget**, the **general administration budget**, the **episcopal budget**, the **interdenominational co-operation budget**, the amounts approved or estimated by the General Conference for these causes respectively; (4) **conference benevolence budget**, the amounts approved for Annual Conference causes respectively, and included in one budget; (5) **world service and conference benevolence budget**, the world service apportionment to any Annual Conference plus its conference benevolence budget, included in one sum and distributed among the charges of the conference; (6) the **World Service Fund** (¶¶ 741-49), the **General Administration Fund** (¶¶ 765-68), the **Episcopal Fund** (¶¶ 769-77), the **Interdenominational Co-operation Fund** (¶ 778), the **Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief Fund** (¶¶ 1311-15), the **Fellowship of Suffering and Service Fund** (¶ 763), the **Week of Dedication Fund** (¶ 760), the **Television Ministry Fund** (¶ 764), funds received into the central treasury for these causes respectively.

SEC. II. Council on World Service and Finance

¶ 735. The General Conference at each quadrennial session shall elect a **Council on World Service and Finance** which shall through its central office receive and disburse, in accordance with the directions hereinafter set forth, all funds raised throughout the church for: (1) the World Service Fund, including world service special gifts and Advance special gifts, (2) the General

Administration Fund, (3) the Episcopal Fund, (4) the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, (5) the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief Fund, (6) the Fellowship of Suffering and Service Fund, (7) the Week of Dedication Fund, (8) the Television Ministry Fund, and (9) any other fund or funds as directed by the proper authority. (For the authority and responsibility of the council in nonfiscal matters see ¶ 1120.)

¶ 736. The council shall be elected and organized in accordance with the provisions of ¶¶ 1116-19.

¶ 737. The council shall have the authority and responsibility to perform the following functions:

1. It shall submit to each quadrennial session of the General Conference, for its action and determination, a budget of annual expense for its own operation and for the world service agencies for the ensuing quadrennium. The expenses of the council, including the expense of the central office, shall be a first claim against the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Episcopal Fund, and the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund; and the total expense shall be prorated annually to each in proportion to the amount received on the account of each during the fiscal year. Out of funds thus provided the treasurer shall pay the expenses of the council, including the expense of the central office, and shall keep a true and accurate account thereof.

2. It shall require annually, one month in advance of its annual meeting, or as is deemed necessary, statements of proposed budgets of all agencies receiving general church funds. It shall also require certified public accountant audits annually of all treasuries receiving general church funds through the central treasury. (See ¶ 781). It shall review in each such agency budget the amount for administration, service, and promotion, with a view to maintaining a proper balance among the various parts of the budgets.

3. It shall withhold approval of any item or items for inclusion in the budget or budgets receiving general church funds which in its judgment represents unnecessary duplication of activities or programs within an

agency or between two or more agencies. (See ¶¶ 784, 1115 § 1.)

4. It shall recommend to the General Conference, for its action and determination, a world service program outlining the general financial objectives of the church for the forthcoming quadrennium, and proposing the ratio distribution of world service funds among the participating agencies. It shall indicate the proportion of world service funds to be used for administration, service, and promotion. It shall recommend apportionments to the Annual Conferences, subject to the approval of the General Conference.

5. It shall consult with the Co-ordinating Council and the Council of Bishops relative to the number and timing of all special days which are to be observed on a church-wide basis. After such consultation the Co-ordinating Council shall make appropriate recommendations to the General Conference. Between sessions of the General Conference the Council of Bishops and the Council on World Service and Finance may, in an emergency, authorize a financial appeal.

6. It shall have authority to employ a comptroller. It shall require all agencies receiving general church funds to follow uniform accounting classifications and procedures for reporting and to submit a yearly audit following such auditing procedures as it may specify. It shall have authority to pass on the acceptability of any auditing firm proposed by an agency for handling such yearly audit. All general agencies of the church shall observe a uniform fiscal year ending on May 31.

7. It shall review the investment policies of all agencies receiving general church funds with respect to permanent funds and shall require that Christian as well as sound economic principles in the handling of investment funds be observed.

8. After consultation with the agency, it shall perform or arrange facilities for handling the treasury functions for any general agency which is not large enough to have a full-time treasurer and the financial policies of which are not approved by the council. The cost of such service shall be charged to the agency.

9. On the request of a general agency, it shall hold and invest funds allocated to it when such funds are not intended for current expenditure by that agency. It shall also hold and invest funds for any general agency which does not have an investment program approved by the council.

10. It shall establish standardized annuity rates and formulate policies for the writing of annuities by institutions and agencies operating under the auspices of The Methodist Church.

11. It is authorized to set up a **Committee on Wills, Bequests, and Gifts**. This committee shall take such actions as may be deemed necessary to encourage Methodists to provide for their continued interest in world service, or in one or more of the world service agencies, through bequests and gifts. The income from these sources, where the recipient agency is not designated, shall be used as determined by the council. The expenses of this committee shall be a part of the prior claim for promotion of world service causes. The committee is authorized to cooperate with local church Committees on Wills and Legacies (¶ 145 § 12) in such ways as may be deemed mutually helpful.

12. It shall administer the General Administration Fund (¶¶ 765-68), the Episcopal Fund (¶¶ 769-77), and the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund (¶ 778).

13. It shall receive from the Board of Trustees a report of the distributable income from undesignated funds held by the board, and shall recommend to the General Conference how such income should be distributed.

¶ 738. The treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance shall, not less than thirty days prior to the session of each Annual Conference, transmit to the presiding bishop thereof, to the president of the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, and to the conference treasurer a statement of the apportionments to the conference for the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Episcopal Fund, the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, and such other funds as may have been apportioned by the General Conference. (See ¶¶ 749, 767, 771, 778.) He shall keep an

account of all amounts remitted to him by the conference treasurers and from other sources intended for: (1) the World Service Fund, including world service special gifts and Advance special gifts, (2) the General Administration Fund, (3) the Episcopal Fund, (4) the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, (5) the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief Fund, (6) the Fellowship of Suffering and Service Fund, (7) the Week of Dedication Fund, (8) the Television Ministry Fund, and (9) any other fund so directed by the proper authority, and shall disburse the same as authorized by the General Conference and directed by the council. A separate account shall be kept of each such fund, and none of them shall be drawn on for the benefit of another. The fiscal year for the council and for the several funds, boards, and agencies related to it, shall be from June 1 to May 31 inclusive.

¶ 739. The treasurer shall report annually to the council and to the respective conference commissions as to all amounts received and disbursed during the year. He shall also make to each quadrennial session of the General Conference a full report of the financial transactions of the council for the preceding quadrennium. The treasurer shall be bonded for such an amount as may be determined by the council. The books of the treasurer shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant approved by the executive committee.

SEC. III. The World Service Fund

¶ 741. 1. Prior to each quadrennial session of the General Conference the Council on World Service and Finance shall make a diligent and detailed study of the needs of all the general causes or authorized agencies of the church asking to be included in the world service budget.

2. The general secretary or other duly authorized representative of each agency of The Methodist Church requesting support out of the World Service Fund, and the authorized representative of any other agency for which askings are authorized by the General Conference, shall appear before the council at a designated time and place to represent the cause for which each is responsible.

¶ 742. The Council on World Service and Finance

shall make diligent effort to secure full information concerning the general benevolence and service causes of the church, in order that none may be neglected, jeopardized, or excluded. It shall study in relation to each other the proposed programs of the several agencies as presented to it (¶ 741 § 2) and shall withhold approval of any item or items for inclusion in the world service budget which in its judgment represents unnecessary duplication of activities or programs. Basing its judgment of needs upon the programs of the several agencies as approved by it, the council shall recommend to the General Conference for its action and determination the amount to be apportioned in the annual world service budget for each authorized agency of the church. The total amount thus designated by the council for the several agencies, when approved by the General Conference, shall be the annual world service budget for the ensuing quadrennium. The council shall recommend also to the General Conference for its action and determination a plan and schedule for the distribution of the receipts for the world service budget among the several agencies. During the quadrennium the council shall have full authority to correlate the work of the world service agencies in the interest of co-operation, economy, and effectiveness, as these relate to the financial interests of the church.

¶ 743. Any general board, cause, agency, institution, or any organization, group, officer, or individual of The Methodist Church desiring or proposing to make a special church-wide financial appeal during the quadrennium, or at any time in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, shall present a request for authorization to make such appeal to the Council on World Service and Finance when the askings of the regular agencies are presented as provided in ¶ 741 § 2. The council shall then report such request to the General Conference with a recommendation for its action thereon. "Special appeal" shall be understood to mean any appeal other than the general appeal for support of the world service program as represented in the world service budget. (See ¶ 742.) "Church-wide appeal" shall be understood to mean any appeal to the church at large, except

appeals to such special groups as alumni of an educational institution.

¶ 744. The world service agencies shall not solicit additional or special gifts from individual donors or special groups unless approval for such solicitation is first secured from the Council on World Service and Finance.

¶ 745. Individual donors or local churches may make special gifts to the support of any cause or project which is a part of the work of any one of the world service agencies. Such gifts may be sent directly to the agency concerned, or to the central treasury of the Council on World Service and Finance. They shall not apply on the benevolence apportionment of any local church, and shall not be charged against the agency or agencies receiving them in the ratio distribution of the on-apportionment benevolences. Bequests, gifts on the annuity plan, gifts to permanent funds, and gifts for property shall be classified as special gifts.

¶ 746 1. All special gifts, whether for special appeals, bequests, gifts on the annuity plan at maturity, or gifts for property, made to or administered by a general agency of the church, shall be acknowledged by **special-gift vouchers**.

2. The vouchers acknowledging such gifts to world service agencies shall be entitled "world service special-gift vouchers"; *provided*, however, that vouchers for such gifts to the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions of the Board of Missions or the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief (except as provided in ¶ 1314) shall be entitled "Advance special-gift vouchers" (¶ 759); and *provided*, further, that vouchers for the Week of Dedication offering (¶ 760), Fellowship of Suffering and Service offerings (¶ 763), and contributions to the Television Ministry Fund (¶ 764) shall bear the respective names of these appeals.

3. All special-gift vouchers shall be credited in their respective special columns in the Annual Conference minutes. The agency or office issuing each voucher shall send at the same time a duplicate voucher to the central treasury for forwarding to the conference treasurer.

4. A world service agency or any individual or agency

authorized to make a church-wide appeal for funds, not equipped to issue special-gift vouchers, shall channel all special gifts through the central treasury. Individuals soliciting such funds shall channel the money received through the central treasury or the treasurer of the appropriate agency, which shall issue the proper vouchers.

¶ 747. The Council on World Service and Finance shall also recommend to the General Conference the days in connection with the church-wide observance of which the taking of special offerings shall be authorized, and in the case of each shall recommend whether or not the receipts derived therefrom shall be credited to the contributing local church as a part of its world service apportionment, and charged against the claims of the agency receiving the same. All such recommendations are subject to the approval of the General Conference.

¶ 748. The General Conference having determined the budgeted amounts and the plan and schedule of distribution to the participating boards and agencies as provided in ¶ 742, thereafter no benevolence interest shall be allowed to have a prior or preferred claim or increased ratio participation in the world service budget during the quadrennium except to meet an emergency, and then only by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting at a regular or called meeting of the Council on World Service and Finance, the Council of Bishops concurring in this action by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting; nor shall the total world service budget be changed in the interim between the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference except as required by unforeseen conditions, and then only by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting at a regular or called meeting of the council, the Council of Bishops concurring in this action by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting. No general board, cause, agency, institution, or any organization, group, officer, or individual employed by The Methodist Church or any of the authorized groups of The Methodist Church shall make a church-wide financial appeal in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of the General Conference, unless authorized as provided in ¶ 743, except with the approval of the Council on World

Service and Finance and the Council of Bishops. In case of emergency the executive committee of either of these bodies may act in such matter for the body itself, but only by a three-fourths vote. (See ¶ 743.)

¶ 749. The Council on World Service and Finance shall after careful study prepare an equitable schedule of apportionments by which the total world service budget (¶ 742) shall be distributed to the several Annual Conferences and shall present the same to the General Conference for its action and determination.⁵

SEC. IV. Commission on Promotion and Cultivation

¶ 750. 1. In order to co-ordinate the promotion of the general financial causes of the church, to the end that our people may be informed about, and may adequately support, the general agencies of the church, there shall be a **Commission on Promotion and Cultivation**, which shall establish and maintain a central promotional office, operating under its authority and direction, for the purpose of promoting throughout the church the program of world service, Advance specials (¶ 759), Week of Dedication offerings (¶ 760), Fellowship of Suffering and Service offerings (¶ 763), the Television Ministry Fund (¶ 764), and other general financial causes except as otherwise directed by the General Conference.

2. The commission shall be elected quadrennially and shall be constituted as follows: six bishops, one from each jurisdiction, elected by the Council of Bishops; three ministers and three laymen from the church at large, nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference; and one representative from each jurisdiction, elected by its Jurisdictional Conference on nomination of its College of Bishops. In addition the general secretaries of the several general agencies participating in world service funds and in funds raised through the Week of Dedication and the Fellowship of Suffering and Service, the president of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, the chairman of the Advance Committee, and the chairman of the Week of Dedication Committee shall be ex officio members without vote.

⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 30.

3. The commission shall be constituted at the beginning of each quadrennium, and its members shall serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Interim vacancies among members at large shall be filled by the Council of Bishops and among jurisdictional representatives shall be filled by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction concerned.

¶ 751. The commission shall elect quadrennially the following officers: a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a **general secretary**. The general secretary shall be secretary of the commission, and the general secretary of the Council on World Service and Finance shall be its treasurer.

¶ 752. The general secretary, under the authority and direction of the commission, shall co-ordinate and promote on a church-wide basis the program of world service, Advance specials, Week of Dedication offerings, and all other general financial causes except as otherwise directed by the General Conference. The commission shall set the general secretary's salary, and shall make provision for office equipment and clerical help. The general secretary shall co-operate with the general secretary of the Council on World Service and Finance. He shall, by such plans as shall be authorized by the commission, promote the general financial causes of the church through the bishops, district superintendents, pastors, lay officials, and General, Jurisdictional, and Annual Conference boards and agencies.

¶ 753. 1. The commission shall have the responsibility of reviewing at least annually, and as often in addition as may be necessary, the several and combined plans of the general boards and agencies for the production and distribution of all free literature and promotional and resource periodicals (except church-school literature) for the purpose of co-ordinating the content, distribution, and timing of the release of such materials. In case of inability to work out adequate plans and procedures for co-ordinating the content, timing, and distribution, the matter shall be referred to the Co-ordinating Council.

2. The commission shall study the problems of co-ordinating and simplifying the methods and facilities for

distribution of materials and may arrange for improved and more efficient distribution of literature.

3. The commission shall publish a **free local-church program journal** for pastors and local-church leaders. This journal shall present to the local church for its use the program and promotional materials of the general agencies in a correlated manner and shall be in lieu of general-agency promotional periodicals; *provided* that this shall not apply to *The Methodist Woman* and *The Methodist Layman*.

4. In view of the fact that there is an inseparable relationship between education in stewardship and giving, during the quadrennium of 1956-60 the commission shall co-operate with the Boards of Education and of Lay Activities in a church-wide program of stewardship education, with special emphasis on the stewardship of possessions, which shall be closely related to giving to the benevolence causes which Methodists will be called on to support. Stewardship of possessions shall be interpreted to mean that the tithe is the minimum standard of giving for Methodist people, and shall be promoted by the above agencies by providing appropriate literature for the use of churches and pastors in enlisting Methodist people as titheers.

5. The commission may commit to its central promotional office any other cause or undertaking, financial or otherwise, not herein mentioned, demanding church-wide promotion or publicity; *provided* that such action shall have been previously approved by the Council of Bishops and the Council on World Service and Finance, or by their respective executive committees.

¶ 754. The expenses of the commission, including the editing, publishing, and distribution of the local-church program journal, fourth-Sunday world service leaflets, and other publications or visual aids for the promoting of general benevolences authorized by the General Conference, shall be paid out of world service receipts, on a pro rata basis to be determined by the commission and approved by the Council on World Service and Finance. The budget of the commission, as recommended by the Council on World Service and Finance and approved by

the General Conference, shall be a prior charge against the World Service Fund.

¶ 755. 1. In each Annual Conference there shall be constituted a **Conference Commission on Promotion and Cultivation** to promote the program of world service and other benevolence causes in the pastoral charges of the conference in co-operation with the central promotional office of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation.

2. This commission shall be composed of the following members: the resident bishop, the district superintendents, the president of the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, the conference lay leader, the president of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, the conference missionary secretary, the executive secretary and the president of the Conference Board of Education, the president of the Conference Board of Missions, the chairman of the Conference Board of Evangelism, the chairman of the Conference Board of Lay Activities, the chairman of the Conference Television, Radio, and Film Commission, the heads of such other conference agencies as may be desired by the bishop and his Cabinet, and any members of the general commission residing within the bounds of the Annual Conference.

3. The budget for the commission shall be provided by the conference through its Commission on World Service and Finance.

SEC. V. The Advance Committee

¶ 757. For the more adequate support of the missionary program of the church, the **Advance** shall be organized and administered as hereinafter set forth, to the end that opportunity may be given each local church through its pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference to participate in such support, over and above its world service contributions, as each may determine. (See ¶ 149 § 3.) The Advance program shall include all special gifts (¶ 745) to missionary causes, which shall be designated as general Advance specials (¶ 759) or conference Advance specials (¶ 761), and Week of Dedication offerings (¶ 760).

¶ 758. 1. There shall be an **Advance Committee**, con-

sisting of one bishop, one minister, and one layman from each jurisdiction, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Interim vacancies shall be filled by the Council of Bishops. In addition the general secretaries of the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions and the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation of the Board of Missions, the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, the Council on World Service and Finance, and the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, and a representative from the Woman's Division of Christian Service named by its executive committee shall be ex officio members without vote.

2. The committee shall have general oversight of the Advance program in accordance with the plan and procedure hereinafter described.

¶ 759. 1. The agencies participating in **general Advance specials** shall be the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions of the Board of Missions, and the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief.

2. As far as practicable these specials shall be solicited for specific objects that may be visualized and described. Each such special object shall be approved by the Advance Committee (or by a committee on specials appointed by it) on recommendation of the agency concerned. An Annual Conference, local church, or individual may assume responsibility for an undesignated foreign, home, or overseas relief special, in which case the agency concerned shall determine where such special shall be allocated, shall inform the donor where his gift has been invested, and shall as far as practicable establish communication between donor and recipient.

3. Receipts for general Advance specials shall be remitted by the local-church treasurer to the conference treasurer, who shall make remittance each month to the general treasurer. The general treasurer shall remit monthly to the respective participating agencies the amount received for each; *provided*, however, that when a donor church or individual so elects, remittance may be made directly to the treasurer of the agency administering such special, whereupon the agency receiving such remittance shall send to the central treasury a

voucher for the central treasurer and a voucher for the conference treasurer.

4. Each participating agency shall administer the general Advance specials received by it in harmony with procedures approved by the Advance Committee, and shall report them to the Advance Committee at such intervals and in such detail as the committee may request. The Advance Committee shall report in detail to the General Conference.

5. Each participating agency shall, on receipt of a general Advance special, communicate with the donor, whether conference, local church, or individual, and as far as practicable establish communication between donor and recipient.

¶ 760. The **Week of Dedication** appeal shall be under the general supervision of the Advance Committee, in accordance with the following directives:

1. The Week of Dedication shall be observed annually, emphasizing Ash Wednesday and culminating in the first Sunday in Lent, which shall be designated as **Dedication Sunday**. The spiritual emphases of the Week of Dedication; as determined by the Advance Committee, shall receive prior consideration.

2. The participating agencies shall be the Division of World Missions, the Division of National Missions, and the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions, and the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief; and they shall participate by ratios determined by the Advance Committee.

3. The Advance Committee shall name quadrennially a **Week of Dedication Committee**, in number and composition as the Advance Committee may determine; *provided*, however, that each jurisdiction shall have representation. This committee shall approve all askings that are included in the Week of Dedication budget on recommendation of the respective participating agencies, and shall determine the order of their priority, subject to the final approval of the Advance Committee or its executive committee. The committee shall, in co-operation with the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, promote the Week of Dedication throughout the church. The Week of

Dedication Committee shall report annually to the Advance Committee.

4. The participating agencies shall recommend annually to the Week of Dedication Committee the objects to be included in the next Week of Dedication askings and the amounts recommended for each. The recommendations from the participating agencies shall include only urgent causes not otherwise provided for and, except in the case of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief and Crusade scholarships, shall include non-recurring items only; and in each instance assurance shall be given that the amount requested will complete the project.

5. Week of Dedication offerings shall be promptly remitted by the local-church treasurer to the conference treasurer, who shall remit monthly to the general treasurer. The general treasurer shall remit to the participating agencies in accordance with the ratios determined by the Advance Committee. Each participating agency shall administer funds so received by the following rule: Each object under its administration included in the Week of Dedication budget, in the order of its priority, as approved by the Advance Committee, shall receive in full the amount allotted it before any amount is remitted to the object next succeeding.

6. A Week of Dedication special-gift voucher shall be issued (see ¶ 746), and a space for reporting the amount of the offering shall be included in the form for the pastor's report to the Annual Conference.

7. The expense budget for the Week of Dedication shall be approved annually by the Advance Committee, and such expense shall be a prior claim on the Week of Dedication offering.

¶ 761. Each Annual Conference is authorized to initiate and promote **conference Advance specials** for missionary and church extension objects within the conference, as follows:

1. Proposed conference Advance specials shall be approved and promoted by the Conference Board of Missions.

2. Conference Advance specials may be administered by the Conference Board of Missions, or by the Division

of National Missions on request of the Annual Conference concerned.

3. An Annual Conference may undertake a conference-wide campaign for a lump sum to be applied to its missionary and church-extension needs. The funds so received shall be designated as conference Advance specials, and shall be administered by the Conference Board of Missions. Local churches shall report their respective contributions as conference Advance specials.

4. Unless the Annual Conference directs otherwise, a district within the conference may authorize and promote Advance specials for church-extension and missionary needs within the district, such funds to be administered by a district missionary society organized for that purpose, or by a similar body set up by the District Conference. Such specials secured and administered on a district level shall be reported by each local church to the Annual Conference as conference Advance specials.

5. Annual Conference report forms shall include separate spaces designated as "Advance specials, general," and "Advance specials, conference"; and local churches shall report accordingly.

6. It is recommended that each Annual Conference or district administering conference Advance specials set aside each year ten per cent of the amount received for that purpose for aid to the weaker and more urgent situations outside the conference, and that such amount be remitted to the Division of National Missions, to be administered by it as a general Advance special.

¶ 762. The following general directives shall be observed in the promotion and administration of the Advance:

1. In the appeal and promotion of Advance specials and Week of Dedication offerings there shall be no area or conference goals or quotas, except as they may be set by an area or conference for itself.

2. The treasurer of the Advance shall be the general secretary of the Council on World Service and Finance.

3. The expense of promotion for Advance specials shall be borne by the respective participating agencies in proportion to the amount received by each in Advance spe-

cials. The causes of the Advance shall be correlated with other financial appeals and shall be promoted by the central promotional office of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation.

4. The appeal for Advance specials shall be channeled through bishops, district superintendents, and pastors, the details of the procedure to be determined by the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation in consultation with the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation of the Board of Missions and the Advance Committee.

5. In each Annual Conference the Conference Board of Missions, in co-operation with the General Board of Missions and the General and Conference Commissions on Promotion and Cultivation, shall promote Advance specials and Week of Dedication offerings through district missionary secretaries, conference and district missionary institutes, and other effective means as it may determine.

6. Should a clear emergency arise, any feature of the structure and administration of the Advance may be altered by the Advance Committee on the approval of a majority of the Council of Bishops and of the Council on World Service and Finance.

SEC. VI. Other Special Appeals

¶ 763. The Fellowship of Suffering and Service appeal shall be continued until it is deemed no longer needed, either by the General Conference or, between its sessions, by three-fourths vote of the Council of Bishops and of the Council on World Service and Finance meeting separately. Each local church shall be requested to transmit, either through its conference treasurer or directly to the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance, under designation of the Fellowship of Suffering and Service, all the offering received on World-wide Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October) and a portion of the offerings received at subsequent observances of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A Fellowship of Suffering and Service special-gift voucher shall be issued (see ¶ 746), and a space for reporting the amount of the offerings shall be included in the form for the pastor's report to the Annual Conference. The treasurer of the

Council on World Service and Finance is authorized to distribute these receipts on the basis of fifty per cent to the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief and twenty-five per cent each to the Commission on Chaplains and the Commission on Camp Activities.

764. There shall be a world service special-gift fund known as the **Television Ministry Fund**, which shall be raised as follows:

1. Promotion shall be by the central promotional office of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation in consultation with the general secretary of the Television, Radio, and Film Commission or a special committee thereof as it may determine; and the appeal shall be channeled through the bishops, district superintendents, and pastors with the aid of the Conference Commissions on Promotion and Cultivation.

2. Each Annual Conference may appoint a **Television Ministry Fund Committee** to work on the conference and district level with the General and Conference Television, Radio, and Film Commissions in interpreting to the local churches the need for the Television Ministry Fund.

3. No apportionments shall be given the Annual Conference, district, or local church.

4. A Television Ministry special-gift voucher shall be issued. (See ¶ 746.)

5. The Council on World Service and Finance is authorized to provide a space for recording contributions to this fund in the pastor's report to the Annual Conference.

6. All contributions for the Television Ministry Fund shall be channeled through the conference treasurer to the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance.

7. If the Television, Radio, and Film Commission deems it desirable, the designation of special projects within the Television Ministry program may be authorized.

SEC. VII. The General Administration Fund

¶ 765. The General Administration Fund shall provide for the expenses of the sessions of the General Conference, the Judicial Council, the Co-ordinating Council (¶ 1115 § 6), the Statistical Office (¶ 1120 § 5), the Transportation

Office (¶ 1120 § 7), the File of Pastors and Church Officials (¶ 1120 § 8), the Commission on Worship (¶ 1568), the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information (¶ 1588), the Association of Methodist Historical Societies (¶ 1591), such special commissions and committees as may be constituted by the General Conference, and such interchurch causes and other activities as may be authorized by the General Conference other than those provided for under the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund (¶ 778).^a Any agency or institution requiring or desiring support from the General Administration Fund shall present its case for the same to the Council on World Service and Finance at a time and place which shall be indicated by the officers of the council. The council, having heard such requests, shall report the same to the General Conference with recommendations for its action and determination.

¶ 766. The Council on World Service and Finance shall submit to each quadrennial session of the General Conference an annual general administration budget, including such items as in the judgment of the council should be provided for out of this fund for the ensuing quadrennium. The council shall likewise recommend to the General Conference what prior or preferred claims shall be allowed in the general administration budget, and by what plan or ratios the causes included in the budget shall share in the funds collected. The general administration budget thus submitted, including all recommendations, shall be subject to the action and determination of the General Conference.

¶ 767. The Council on World Service and Finance shall apportion among the several Annual Conferences of the church the total general administration budget, as approved by the General Conference, by such ratio and percentage to the total giving (not including the payment of debts or for church buildings), as recorded in the General Minutes for the first three years of the quadrennium closing with the current session of the General Conference, as is necessary to raise the approved annual budget. The

^a See Judicial Council Decision 17.

apportionments for the general administration budget shall not be subject to change or revision either by the Annual Conference or by the charge or local church.

¶ 768. The treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance shall disburse the funds received by him for the General Administration Fund as authorized by the General Conference and as directed by the council. Where the General Conference has not allocated definite sums to agencies receiving money from the General Administration Fund, the Council on World Service and Finance, or its executive committee, shall have authority to determine the amount to be allocated to each.

SEC. VIII.

The Episcopal Fund

¶ 769. The Episcopal Fund, raised separately from all other funds, shall provide for the salary and expenses of effective bishops and for the support of retired bishops and of the widows and minor children of deceased bishops. Subject to the approval of the Council on World Service and Finance, the treasurer shall have authority to borrow for the benefit of the Episcopal Fund such amounts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the orders of the General Conference.

¶ 770. The Council on World Service and Finance shall recommend to each quadrennial session of the General Conference for its action and determination: (1) the amounts to be fixed as salaries of the effective bishops; (2) a schedule of such amounts as may be judged adequate to provide for their expense of house, office, and travel; (3) the amounts to be fixed as annual pensions for the support of retired bishops; and (4) a schedule of allowance for the widows and for the support of minor children of deceased bishops. From the facts in hand the council shall estimate the approximate total amount required annually during the ensuing quadrennium to provide for the items of episcopal support above mentioned, and shall report the same to the General Conference. This amount as finally determined shall be the estimated episcopal budget.

¶ 771. The Council on World Service and Finance shall estimate what percentage of the total salaries paid pastors

and associate pastors by the entire church will yield an amount equal to the estimated episcopal budget, and shall make recommendations to the General Conference concerning the same for its action and determination. When such percentage has been approved by the General Conference, it shall be the basis of the annual apportionment to each Annual Conference for the Episcopal Fund. The apportionment to each Annual Conference shall be an amount equal to the approved percentage of the total cash salaries paid to the pastors and associate pastors serving charges under episcopal appointment or as supply pastors, as reported to the current session of the Annual Conference. This apportionment shall be distributed to the pastoral charges as the conference may determine. In every case the amount apportioned to a charge for the Episcopal Fund shall be paid in the same proportion as the charge pays its pastor.

¶ 772. The treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance shall remit monthly to each effective bishop one twelfth of his annual salary, and also one twelfth of his house rent or maintenance, and office expenses as approved by the council. Allowances for retired bishops and for the widows and minor children of deceased bishops shall be paid to them severally in equal monthly installments.

¶ 773. The treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance shall pay monthly the claim for the official travel of each bishop or missionary bishop, upon presentation of an itemized voucher.⁷ "Official travel" of an effective bishop shall be interpreted to include all visitations to local churches within his area, and to institutions or enterprises of The Methodist Church where he is called in the performance of his official duties, and such journeys outside his area as are within the meaning of "travel through the connection at large" (¶ 431 § 10). No part of the expense and no honoraria for any such visitations shall be accepted from local Methodist churches or enterprises or institutions of The Methodist Church, such expense being a proper claim against the Episcopal Fund;

⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 117.

provided that, when a bishop who is a member of an agency of the church is called to a meeting of the same or to a meeting of a committee thereof, the expense incident to such journey shall be paid by the said agency.

Nothing in this interpretation is intended to preclude special or nonofficial engagements of a bishop, other than the oversight of the temporal and spiritual affairs of the church (¶ 431 § 1), such as series of lectures in educational institutions, baccalaureate addresses, and preaching missions of several days' duration, when such engagements do not interfere with his official duties; nor does it preclude the acceptance of honoraria for such services.

¶ 774. 1. The pensions for the support of retired bishops elected by General or Jurisdictional Conferences and the surviving widows and minor dependent children of such deceased bishops shall be provided by means of a contributory reserve pension fund to be held and administered by the Council on World Service and Finance in consultation with the General Board of Pensions.

2. The amounts of the annual pensions payable to such persons shall be determined by the General Conference, on recommendation of the council.

3. Each bishop in active service shall contribute annually to the fund an amount equal to three per cent of his cash salary. The treasurer of the Episcopal Fund is authorized and instructed to withhold from each bishop's salary the amount of his required contribution and pay it to the fund.

4. Any and all benefit derived from the contributions required of a bishop shall be regarded as a part of the total amount of the pension payable to said bishop upon his retirement and to his surviving widow and minor dependent children.

5. The remainder of the cost of the reserve funding of such pensions shall be provided from the Episcopal Fund in accordance with such program and procedure as may from time to time be determined by the council with the approval of the General Conference.

6. The council is directed to proceed as rapidly as possible to convert fully the present pension program to a

program of reserve funding of the pensions of bishops and of the widows and dependent minor children of deceased bishops.

¶ 775. Should any effective bishop in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of his Jurisdictional Conference be relieved by the College of Bishops of his jurisdiction from the performance of regular episcopal duties (¶ 431), on account of ill health or for any other reason, the president of the said College of Bishops shall so notify the treasurer of the Episcopal Fund. Beginning ninety days after such notification, he shall receive the regular pension allowance of a retired bishop, and such pension allowance shall continue until he resumes the regular duties of an effective bishop or until his status shall have been determined by his Jurisdictional Conference. Assignment of another bishop or bishops to perform the regular episcopal duties of a bishop so disabled or otherwise incapacitated, for a period of sixty days or more, shall be interpreted as a release of the said bishop from the performance of his regular episcopal duties.

¶ 776. Should any retired bishop, in the interim of the quadrennial sessions of his Jurisdictional Conference, be called into active service by the Council of Bishops and assigned to active episcopal duty (¶ 436 § 4), he shall be entitled to remuneration for such service out of the Episcopal Fund. In the event of such assignment of a retired bishop to active episcopal duty, the president of the Council of Bishops shall notify the treasurer of the Episcopal Fund, giving full information as to the nature and scope of the work assigned him. On the basis of this information the Council on World Service and Finance or its executive committee shall determine what salary remuneration and what expense allowance shall be allowed the bishop concerned during the period of his active service. The treasurer of the Episcopal Fund shall make remittance to him accordingly.

¶ 777. In determining the schedule of allowances for the widows of deceased bishops the following rule shall apply: Each beneficiary who prior to the death of her husband had been his wife for not less than fifteen years while he was engaged in the effective ministry of The

Methodist Church, whether bishop or traveling preacher, shall receive the full allowance for the widow of a deceased bishop, as ordered by the General Conference. The allowance of the widow of a deceased bishop who prior to the death of her husband had been his wife for less than fifteen years while he was an effective minister of The Methodist Church shall be determined on the basis of that fraction of fifteen years during which she was his wife while he was an effective minister of The Methodist Church; whether bishop or traveling preacher; *provided* that the Council on World Service and Finance may at its discretion increase the said allowance if special need exists, but in no instance shall the allowance of the widow of a deceased bishop exceed the full allowance as hereinbefore set forth.

SEC. IX.

**The Interdenominational
Co-operation Fund**

¶ 778. The Council on World Service and Finance shall recommend to the General Conference the sum which the church shall undertake to provide as its share of the budget of the National Council of Churches (¶ 1596) and the World Council of Churches (¶ 1597). The sum approved by the General Conference for this purpose shall be the interdenominational co-operation budget. The Council on World Service and Finance shall recommend to the General Conference, for its consideration and determination, appropriate measures to be employed in order to provide the approved sum. The money contributed by the local churches, boards, or other agencies for this purpose shall be known as the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, and shall be received and held by the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance and disbursed as the General Conference shall direct.

SEC. X.

Miscellaneous

¶ 781. All boards and other agencies receiving financial support from the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, or any authorized church-wide appeal shall make to the Council on World Service and Finance audited reports of all receipts and disbursements in such

detail and at such times as the council may direct. (See ¶ 737 §§ 2, 6; also ¶ 729.)

¶ 782. During the quadrennium these agencies shall study their respective functions, programs, and internal operations and institute such improvements and economies in their work as they find to be feasible and practicable. They shall co-operate with the council in working out, in advance of these studies, the general areas to be included and methods of carrying out this objective. They shall report their accomplishments in improvements and economies at the close of each fiscal year to the council, which shall prepare from this information a combined report for the General Conference.

¶ 783. 1. Each world service agency, so far as possible, shall adopt the following levels in agency organization:

a) **Board or division**—the general organization of staff responsibility.

b) **Section**—a broad subdivision of responsibility in a board or division.

c) **Department**—a specific phase of service to the field.

d) **Bureau**—a subdivision of responsibility within a department.

2. Each world service agency shall adopt the following titles for staff executives:

a) **General secretary**—head of a council, board, division, commission, joint section, or the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief.

b) **Associate secretary**—an executive second in authority to a general secretary, who may be assigned authority to speak for the general secretary in his absence; provided that the title **associate general secretary** may be used for an associate secretary who also has certain executive secretaries responsible to him.

c) **Executive secretary**—head of a section or of an interboard committee.

d) **Director**—head of a department.

e) **Superintendent**—head of a bureau.

¶ 784. In the event of any interboard disagreement on matters of policy and program involving world service funds, the Council on World Service and Finance shall act as arbiter. It shall also consider any complaints from con-

tributors, whether individuals or organizations. If it shall discover what in its judgment is unnecessary duplication of activities or lack of correlation in the programs of the several boards and agencies in relation to each other, it shall promptly direct the attention of the boards or agencies involved to the situation and shall co-operate with them in correcting the same and may decline to supply from the world service treasury money to continue activities which have been held by the council to duplicate each other unnecessarily or plainly violate the principle of correlation as applied to the total benevolence program of the church. (See ¶ 737 § 3.)

¶ 785. The Council on World Service and Finance may receive, take title to, collect or hold, absolutely or in trust for the benefit of the World Service Fund, the General Administration Fund, the Episcopal Fund, the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief Fund, the Fellowship of Suffering and Service Fund, the Week of Dedication Fund, or the Television Ministry Fund of The Methodist Church, or any other fund or funds properly committed to its care, or for proper distribution among the causes supported by these funds, any and all donations, bequests, and devises of any kind or character, real or personal, that may be given, devised, bequeathed, or conveyed unto said Council on World Service and Finance, and to administer the same and the income therefrom in accordance with the directions of the donor, trustor, or testator.

The Council on World Service and Finance shall also have power to invest, reinvest, buy, sell, transfer, and convey any and all funds and properties which it may hold absolutely or in trust, subject always to the terms of the legacy, devise, or donation.

¶ 786. The Council on World Service and Finance shall recommend to each Conference Commission on World Service and Finance a uniform procedure for presenting its report to the Annual Conference and shall prepare a form for the guidance of the conference treasurer in making his annual statement in the conference journal.

SEC. XI. **The Conference Commission on World Service and Finance**

¶ 791. Each Annual Conference shall elect, at its session next succeeding the General Conference, a **Commission on World Service and Finance**, nominated by the district superintendents or a nominating committee, as the conference may determine, and composed of five ministers and six lay persons; *provided* that in smaller conferences the number may be reduced to not less than two ministers and three lay persons. Their term of service shall begin with the adjournment of the said conference session, and they shall serve for the quadrennium and until their successors shall have been chosen. No member or employee of any conference board and no employee, trustee, or director of any agency or institution participating in the funds of the conference benevolence budget shall be eligible for membership on the commission. Any vacancy shall be filled by action of the commission until the next conference session, at which time the Annual Conference shall fill the vacancy.

¶ 792. The commission shall elect a president, a vice-president, and a secretary. The conference treasurer (¶ 803) shall be the treasurer of the commission. As an employee of the commission, he shall not be a member of it, but may sit with the commission and its executive committee at all sessions and have the privilege of the floor but without vote. He shall be bonded in a surety company approved by the commission, and for an amount which the commission judges to be adequate.

¶ 793. The chairman of each conference agency, or other duly authorized representative, shall have opportunity to represent the claims of his agency before the commission. The commission shall make diligent effort to secure full information regarding all conference benevolence and service causes, that none may be neglected, jeopardized, or excluded, and shall recommend to the Annual Conference for its action and determination the total amount to be apportioned for conference causes and included in the conference benevolence budget. All agencies receiving financial support from conference

benevolences, or from any other authorized conference-wide appeal, shall make to the commission audited reports concerning all such receipts and the disbursements thereof in such detail and at such times as the commission may direct.

¶ 794. The commission shall also recommend to the Annual Conference for its action and determination the amount or the percentage of the total sum of the conference benevolence budget which shall be apportioned to each cause included in the said budget.

¶ 795. The commission, on receiving from the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance a statement of the amount apportioned that Annual Conference for world service, shall combine the world service apportionment and the approved conference benevolence budget (¶ 793) in one total sum to be known as **world service and conference benevolences**. The total world service and conference benevolence budget thus established shall include a statement of the percentage for world service and the percentage for conference benevolences and shall be distributed annually among the districts or charges, by the method determined by the conference (¶ 796), and by such divisions and ratios as the conference may approve.* A like distribution shall be made of Jurisdictional Conference apportionments and any other apportionments that have been properly made to the Annual Conference. The distribution of all apportionments mentioned in this paragraph shall be subject to the approval of the Annual Conference.

¶ 796. The commission shall recommend to the Annual Conference for its action and determination whether the apportionments referred to in ¶ 795 shall be made by the commission to the districts only, or to the charges of the conference. If the apportionments are made by the commission to the districts only, then the distribution to the charges of each district shall be made as provided in ¶ 797. The conference may order that the entire distribution to all the charges of the conference be made by the district superintendents.

* See Judicial Council Decision 63.

¶ 797. Should the Annual Conference make the apportionments to the districts only, the distribution to the charges of each district shall be made by its **District Board of Stewards**, composed of the district superintendent as chairman and the district stewards elected by the several Quarterly Conferences (¶ 143 § 3). In that case it shall be the duty of the district superintendent to call a meeting of the board as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the Annual Conference; and the board shall make the distribution to the charges of the district, using such methods as it may determine, unless the Annual Conference shall have determined the method of distribution to the charges.

¶ 798. The commission shall include in its recommendations to the Annual Conference the amounts computed by the Conference Board of Pensions as necessary to meet the needs for annuity payments and relief. (See ¶ 1623.)

¶ 799. The commission shall report to the Annual Conference at each session the standard percentage approved by the General Conference for the Episcopal Fund as an apportionment to the Annual Conference, as described in ¶ 771. This apportionment shall be distributed to the pastoral charges as the conference may determine.

¶ 800. The commission, on receiving from the Council on World Service and Finance a statement of the amount apportioned to the Annual Conference for the General Administration Fund (¶ 767) and the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund (¶ 773), shall apportion the same to the several districts or charges as the conference may direct.

¶ 801. It shall be the duty of the commission, unless otherwise provided (¶ 802), to estimate the total amount necessary to furnish a sufficient and equitable support for the district superintendents of the conference, including salary and suitable provision for dwelling, travel, and office expense. The commission shall recommend to the Annual Conference for its action and determination the amount estimated, including the salary and other allowances specified above, for each of the several district superintendents. The commission shall also recommend to the Annual Conference for its action and determination the

basis and method by which the total amount shall be apportioned to the districts or charges in harmony with ¶ 822. The conference treasurer shall, as far as practicable, remit monthly to the several district superintendents the amounts due them, respectively, and with the approval of the Annual Conference the commission, or the treasurer, as the conference may determine, may borrow the funds necessary to make this possible. If an Annual Conference adopts the basic salary plan (¶ 827) for ministerial support, the support for the several district superintendents thereof shall be included therein. The amounts necessary to provide for suitable dwelling, travel, and office expense may be included in the basic salary budget or apportioned separately as the conference may determine.⁹

¶ 802. Annual Conferences which elect to do so may provide for the support of district superintendents through the District Board of Stewards in each of the several districts. In that case the board, under the chairmanship of the district superintendent (¶ 797), shall estimate the salary and expenses of the district superintendent and shall apportion the same among the several charges of the district by the plan it shall adopt. The amount apportioned for the support of the district superintendent shall be included in the items of ministerial support (¶ 821). The board may elect a **district treasurer**, to whom the treasurer of each local church shall make remittances, and who shall in turn make payment to the district superintendent. In the event that no such treasurer is elected, remittances shall be made directly to the district superintendent. There shall be a settlement at least once a quarter, when proportional payments for the various items of ministerial support shall be made. (See ¶ 823.)

¶ 803. Each Annual Conference, on nomination of its Commission on World Service and Finance, shall, at the first session of the conference after the General Conference, elect a **conference treasurer**. He shall serve for the quadrennium or until his successor shall be elected and qualify. If a vacancy should occur during the quadren-

⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 44.

nium, the commission shall fill the vacancy until the next session of the Annual Conference. The commission shall have authority and supervision over the treasurer. After consultation with the bishop in charge, it may remove him from office for cause, and fill the vacancy until the next session of the conference. The commission shall have the accounts of the conference treasurer for the conference year preceding audited by a certified public accountant within ninety days after the close of each session of the Annual Conference. (See § 729.)

§ 804. All amounts contributed in each local church for world service and conference benevolences shall be remitted monthly by the local-church treasurer to the conference treasurer, who shall each month divide the total amount thus received, setting aside the proper amount for world service and the proper amount for conference benevolences, according to the ratio of each established by the Annual Conference in the total world service and conference benevolence budget. He shall make monthly remittances of the share received by him for conference benevolences to the treasurers of the several agencies for conference work according to the rightful share and proportion of each. He shall remit monthly to the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance the total share received by him for world service. When the amount contributed during the year for world service and conference benevolences exceeds the amount apportioned to or accepted by the Annual Conference, the entire share contributed for world service shall be remitted in regular order to the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance before the end of the fiscal year. (See § 267 § 6.)

§ 805. The conference treasurer shall remit monthly to the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance the amounts received and payable for the General Administration Fund, the Episcopal Fund, and the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund. He shall also transmit all amounts received for world service special gifts, Advance special gifts, the Fellowship of Suffering and Service, the Week of Dedication, the Methodist Committee

for Overseas Relief, the Television Ministry Fund, and all other general causes not otherwise directed.

§ 806. The conference treasurer shall make a full report covering all general funds handled by him to the treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance each month. The report shall be made on forms authorized by the council.

§ 807. The commission shall provide a suitable bond for the conference treasurer and shall designate a depository or depositories for conference funds. It shall require the treasurers of all conference boards and agencies to be properly bonded in companies approved by the commission, and shall require that their books be properly audited at least annually. The commission shall recommend to the Annual Conference the amount in which the treasurers of all unincorporated boards or commissions shall be protected by fidelity insurance, and application for such fidelity bonds shall be made by the corporate body of the Annual Conference, and the costs shall be provided for out of the funds held by the unincorporated board or commission so insured. Institutions and organizations that are incorporated under the laws of the state shall secure fidelity bonds for the treasurers of their funds and shall pay the cost of the premium required. (See § 729.)

§ 808. For the sake of economy and efficiency the Annual Conference may constitute the conference treasury as a depository for funds designated for any or all conference boards and agencies participating in the conference benevolences, eliminating as far as possible the necessity of a treasurer for each. In this event the conference treasurer shall keep a separate account for each such conference board or agency, enter the proper credits in each at the end of each month's business, and disburse the same on proper order from each board or agency, respectively. None of the above-designated accounts shall be drawn on for the benefit of another.

§ 809. The commission shall co-operate with the Council on World Service and Finance and with the General Board of Lay Activities in promoting and standardizing the financial system in the local churches of the conference.

§ 810. No Annual Conference board or interest, such as

a school, college, university, or hospital, shall make a special conference-wide appeal to the local churches for funds without the approval of the Annual Conference, except in case of an extreme emergency, when such approval may be given by a two-thirds vote of the district superintendents and of the commission, acting jointly.

¶ 811. When application is made to the conference for the privilege of a special conference-wide financial appeal, whether by special collections, campaigns, or otherwise, the application shall be referred to the commission before final action is taken thereon. The commission shall investigate the application and its possible relation to other obligations of the conference, and in the light of the facts make recommendations to the conference for its action and determination. Such application for privilege of a special appeal may be made directly to the commission for recommendation to the Annual Conference.

¶ 812. The various conference agencies shall report each year to their respective Annual Conferences the salaries and other expenses allowed each secretary in their employ, and the same shall be published in the conference journal.

Sec. XII.

Ministerial Support

¶ 821. Assumption of the obligations of the itinerancy required to be made at the time of admission into the traveling connection puts upon the church the counter-obligation of providing support for the entire ministry of the church. In view of this, the claim for ministerial support in each pastoral charge shall include provision for the support of pastors, district superintendents, bishops, and conference claimants.

¶ 822. Each Annual Conference shall determine what plan and method shall be used in distributing the apportionments to its several districts and charges for the Episcopal Fund (¶ 771), for the support of district superintendents and conference claimants, and for the minimum salary fund (¶ 826), whether by percentages based on the current cash salary paid to the ministers serving pastoral charges under episcopal appointment and to supply pastors, or by some other method.

¶ 823. When the apportionments for bishops, district superintendents, conference claimants, and the minimum salary fund for the several districts and charges have been determined, payments made to the same in each pastoral charge shall be exactly proportional to the amount paid on the ministerial salary or salaries. (See ¶ 771, 1624.) The treasurer or treasurers of each pastoral charge shall accordingly make proportional distribution of the funds raised in that charge for the support of the ministry, and remit monthly, if practicable, and quarterly at the latest (¶ 802), the items for bishops, district superintendents, conference claimants, and the minimum salary fund to the proper treasurer or treasurers.

¶ 824. The several Quarterly Conferences shall determine the pastors' salaries according to the provisions of ¶ 148.

¶ 825. No pastor shall be entitled to any claim for unpaid salary against any church or charge he has served after his pastoral connection with the church or charge has ceased.

¶ 826. *Minimum Salaries*—1. Each Annual Conference shall adopt a schedule of minimum salaries for pastors and shall create a **Commission on Minimum Salaries** composed of ministers and laymen to administer it. The commission shall carefully study the number and extent of the needs for additional ministerial support within the conference, and the sources of income, and with the approval of the Commission on World Service and Finance shall present to the conference for adoption a schedule of minimum salaries, subject to such rules and regulations as the conference may adopt, so long as the rules do not conflict with the provisions of this legislation. The schedule may allow for differences in living conditions, number of dependents in pastor's family, and any other variants the conference may direct.

2. In so far as practicable, this schedule of minimum salaries shall be observed by the bishops and district superintendents in arranging charges and making apportionments.

3. The Commission on Minimum Salaries shall present its estimate of the amount required to comply with the

schedule of minimum salaries for the pastors, as adopted by the conference, to the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, which shall apportion the amount as an item of ministerial support to the districts or the charges as the conference may direct.¹⁰

4. The minimum salary fund, secured as described in § 3, shall be used to provide each pastor who receives less than the minimum salary with an additional amount sufficient to make the salary approved by the pastoral charge plus the supplemental aid or income from other sources equal to the minimum salary approved by the conference; *provided* that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as limiting the right of an Annual Conference to set a maximum amount to be used in attaining such minimum salary in any given case.

5. The Commission on Minimum Salaries shall see that the amounts for minimum salaries are collected and disbursed.

¶ 827. *Basic Salary Plan.*—1. An Annual Conference may by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular session adopt a **basic salary plan** for the support of its active itinerants and supply pastors who are giving their full time to the ministry of the church; *provided*, however, that it shall not institute the basic salary plan until the plan has been approved and ratified by a majority vote of the members of the Quarterly Conferences present and voting in seventy-five per cent of the pastoral charges of such conference. The district superintendents shall certify to the conference secretary the results of the votes taken in the several Quarterly Conferences.

2. The basic salary plan shall provide an established salary schedule for the support of the regular active itinerants and supply pastors giving their full time to the ministry of the church, which may allow for differences of living conditions, number of dependents in the family, and other variants. On recommendation of the Commission on World Service and Finance the basic salary schedule may be changed from time to time by a majority vote of the Annual Conference.

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decision 90.

3. The Commission on World Service and Finance shall estimate the amount necessary to provide such ministerial support as may be required by the schedule adopted, which amount shall be distributed as an apportionment to the districts or pastoral charges by a method to be determined by the conference.

4. The amounts due from the pastoral charges on apportionment shall be paid to a conference treasury established for that purpose, and all basic salaries due shall be paid from that treasury. The basic salary provided for each minister concerned shall constitute his entire salary except as hereinafter provided.

5. Any pastoral charge which has made adequate provision for paying its apportionments for all ministerial support items in full may augment the basic support of its pastor.

6. The Commission on World Service and Finance shall administer the basic salary plan and shall be responsible for collecting and disbursing the funds.¹¹

¶ 828. *Sustentation Fund.*—An Annual Conference may establish a **sustentation fund**, which shall be administered by the Commission on World Service and Finance or some other agency created or designed for the purpose of providing emergency aid to the ministers of the conference who may be in special need. On recommendation of the commission the amount needed for this purpose may be apportioned to the pastoral charges as the conference may determine.

¶ 829. The total of all travel, automobile, and other expenses allowed and paid to a pastor in addition to his salary shall be reported for insertion in the journal of the Annual Conference, in a separate column from that of pastor's salary and adjacent thereto. These expenses shall be distinguished from the moving expenses of a new appointee to a pastoral charge, which shall be reported as provided in ¶ 148.

¶ 830. Every ministerial member of an Annual Conference appointed to any other field than the pastorate or district superintendency shall furnish annually to the

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 65, 70.

conference secretary, at the time of the conference session, a statement of his remuneration, and the salaries or remuneration of all men in special service shall be published in the journal of the Annual Conference.

Sec. XII. The Local Church

¶ 831. For description of the financial plan for the local church see ¶¶ 261-72 under Part II, The Local Church.

PART VI

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER I

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

¶ 901. *Article 1. Members.*—The **Judicial Council** shall be composed of nine members, five of whom shall be ministers and four shall be laymen. They shall be at least forty years of age, and members of The Methodist Church. Their terms of office shall be eight years; *provided*, however, that a member of the council whose seventieth birthday precedes the first day of the regular session of a General Conference shall be released at the close of that General Conference from membership or responsibility in the council regardless of the date of expiration of his term of office.

Members of the council shall be nominated and elected in the manner following: At each quadrennial session of the General Conference, the Council of Bishops shall nominate by majority vote four times the number of ministers and four times the number of laymen to be elected at such session of the General Conference. At the same daily session at which the above nominations are announced, nominations for each class may be made from the floor, but at no other time. The names of all such nominees shall be published in the *Daily Christian Advocate*, with the name of the conference to which each belongs, for two consecutive issues immediately prior to the day of election, which shall be set by action of the General Conference at the session at which the nominations are made; and from these nominations the General Conference shall elect without discussion, by ballot and by majority vote,

the necessary number of each class; *provided*, however, that as a result of the election each jurisdiction shall be represented on the council.¹

Election of members shall be held at each session of the General Conference for only the number of members whose terms expire at such session.

Art. 2. Alternates.—There shall be six alternates of each class, and their qualifications shall be the same as for membership on the Judicial Council. The term of the alternates shall be for eight years; *provided*, however, that an alternate whose seventieth birthday precedes the first day of the regular session of a General Conference shall be released at the close of that General Conference from membership or responsibility in the council regardless of the date of expiration of his term of office.

The alternates shall be elected in the manner following: From the nominees of each class remaining on the ballot after the election of the necessary number of members of the Judicial Council to be elected at sessions of the General Conference, the General Conference shall by separate ballot, without discussion and by majority vote, elect the number of alternates of each class to be elected at such session of the General Conference. An election shall be held at each session of the General Conference for only the number of each class whose terms expire at such session of the General Conference, or to fill vacancies; *provided*, however, that at the 1956 session of the General Conference two ministerial and one lay alternates shall be elected for a term of four years, and three ministerial and three lay alternates shall be elected for a term of eight years.

Art. 3. Vacancies.—If a vacancy in the membership of the Judicial Council occurs during the interim between sessions of the General Conference, it shall be filled by an alternate of the same class² and from the same jurisdiction as the member whom he succeeds, if there is such an alternate, and by the first elected if there is more than one. If there is no alternate of the same class and jurisdiction, the vacancy shall be filled by an alternate

¹ See Judicial Council Decision 62.

² See Judicial Council Decision 94.

of the same class in order of election. The alternate filling such vacancy shall hold office as a member of the Judicial Council for the unexpired term of the member whom he succeeds. In the event of any vacancy it shall be the duty of the president and secretary of the council to notify the alternate entitled to fill it.

In the event of the enforced absence of one or more members of the council at or during a session of the General Conference, such temporary vacancy may be filled for that session of the General Conference, or the remainder thereof, as provided above in this article; *provided*, however, that nothing in this provision shall affect the validity of any action of the council so long as a quorum is present.

Any permanent vacancy or vacancies among the alternates shall be filled by election at the next session of the General Conference to the class or respective classes in which such permanent vacancy or vacancies exist, and the person or persons so elected shall hold office during the unexpired term of the alternate whom each respectively succeeds.

If vacancies in the membership of the Judicial Council occur after exhaustion of the list of alternates, the council is authorized to fill such vacancies for the remainder of the quadrennium.

Art. 4. General.—The term of office of the members of the council and of the alternates shall expire upon the adjournment of the General Conference at which their successors are elected.

¶ 902. Members of the council shall be ineligible for membership in the General Conference or Jurisdictional Conference or in any general or jurisdictional board or for administrative service in any connectinal office.³

¶ 903. The Judicial Council shall provide its own method of organization and procedure. It shall meet at the time and place of the meeting of the General Conference and shall continue in session until the adjournment of that body. It shall meet at such other times and places as it may deem necessary. Seven members shall constitute

³ See Judicial Council Decision 120.

a quorum. An affirmative vote of at least six members of the council shall be necessary to declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional. On other matters a majority vote of the entire council shall be sufficient.

¶ 904. 1. The Judicial Council shall determine the constitutionality of any act of the General Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the Council of Bishops, or one fifth of the members of the General Conference.

2. The Judicial Council shall have jurisdiction to pass upon the constitutionality of any proposed legislation when such declaratory decision is requested by the General Conference or by the Council of Bishops.

¶ 905. The Judicial Council shall determine the constitutionality of any act of a Jurisdictional or a Central Conference upon an appeal of a majority of the bishops of that Jurisdictional or Central Conference, or upon the appeal of one fifth of the members of that Jurisdictional or Central Conference.

¶ 906. The Judicial Council shall hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by any General Conference board, or Jurisdictional or Central Conference board or body, upon appeal by one third of the members thereof, or upon request of the Council of Bishops, or a majority of the bishops of the Jurisdictional or Central Conference.

¶ 907. The Judicial Council shall hear and determine the legality of any action taken therein by a General Conference board, or Jurisdictional or Central Conference board or body, on a matter affecting an Annual or a Provisional Annual Conference, upon appeal by two thirds of the members of the Annual or Provisional Annual Conference present and voting.

¶ 908. The Judicial Council shall hear and determine any appeal from a bishop's decision on a question of law made in the Annual or District Conference when said appeal has been made by one fifth of that conference present and voting.

¶ 909. The Judicial Council shall meet at least once a year and pass upon the decisions of law made by the bishops in Annual and District Conferences upon questions submitted to them in writing, and reported in writ-

ing to the council with a syllabus of each case, and affirm, modify, or reverse them. Before affirmation no episcopal decision shall be authoritative except in the case pending. When the decisions are affirmed, they shall become the law of the church.

¶ 910. The Judicial Council shall hear and determine an appeal of a bishop when taken from the decision of the Trial Court in his case.

¶ 911. The Judicial Council shall have such other duties and powers as may be conferred upon it by the General Conference.

¶ 912. All decisions of the Judicial Council shall be final. However, when the Judicial Council shall declare any act of the General Conference unconstitutional, that decision shall be reported back to that General Conference immediately.

¶ 913. If it should occur that the opinion or decision of a Committee of Appeals of a Jurisdictional Conference should contravene a decision of the Committee of Appeals of another Jurisdictional Conference on a point or question of law, then:

a) Any person, conference, or organization interested therein may appeal the case to the Judicial Council on the ground of such conflict of decisions; or

b) The Committee on Appeals rendering the last of such opinions or decisions may certify the case to and file it with the Judicial Council on the ground of such conflict of decisions; or

c) The attention of the president of the Judicial Council being directed to such conflict, or alleged conflict of decisions, he may issue an order, in the nature of a writ of certiorari, directing the secretaries of the Committees of Appeals involved to certify a copy of a sufficient portion of the record to disclose the nature of the case, and the entire opinion and decision of the Committee of Appeals in each case, to the Judicial Council for its consideration at its next meeting.

The Judicial Council shall hear and determine the question of law involved, but shall not pass upon the facts

in either case further than is necessary to decide the question of law involved. After deciding the question of law, the Judicial Council shall cause the same to be certified to each of the Committees of Appeals involved; and such Committees of Appeals shall take such action, if any, as may be necessary under the law as settled by the Judicial Council.

¶ 914. When the General Conference shall have passed any act or legislation that appears to be subject to more than one interpretation, or when any paragraph or paragraphs of the Discipline seem to be of doubtful meaning, or application, the Judicial Council, on petition as hereinafter provided, shall have jurisdiction to make a ruling in the nature of a **declaratory decision** as to the meaning, application, and effect of such act, legislation, or paragraph or paragraphs of the Discipline; and the decision of the Judicial Council thereon shall be as binding and effectual as a decision made by the Judicial Council on appeal under the law relating to appeals to the Judicial Council.

The following bodies in The Methodist Church are hereby authorized to make such petitions to the Judicial Council for declaratory decisions: (1) the Council of Bishops; (2) any General Conference board or body, on matters relating to or affecting the work of such board or body; (3) a majority of the bishops assigned to any jurisdiction on matters relating to or affecting jurisdictions or the work therein; (4) any Jurisdictional Conference, on matters relating to or affecting jurisdictions or Jurisdictional Conferences or the work therein; (5) any Jurisdictional Conference board or body, on matters relating to or affecting the work of such board or body; (6) any Central Conference, on matters relating to or affecting Central Conferences, or the work therein; (7) any Central Conference board or body, on matters relating to or affecting the work of such board or body; (8) any Annual Conference, on matters relating to Annual Conferences or the work therein.

The Judicial Council shall determine from the facts in

connection with each such petition whether or not it has jurisdiction to hear and determine the same.*

¶ 915. When a declaratory decision is sought, all persons or bodies who have or claim any interest which would be affected by the declaration shall be parties to the proceeding, and the petition shall name such parties. If the council determines that other parties not named by the petition would be affected by such a decision, such additional parties shall also be added; and the petitioner or petitioners shall then be required to serve all parties so joined with a copy of the petition within fifteen days after the filing of the same with the Judicial Council. In like manner any interested party may on his or its own motion intervene and answer, plead, or interplead.

¶ 916. All parties shall have the privilege of filing briefs and arguments, and presenting evidence, under such rules as the council may adopt from time to time. If the Judicial Council deems it necessary to a complete understanding of the facts, in any proceeding in the nature of a petition for a declaratory decision, it may hear evidence (either orally in session or by affidavits filed) or statements of facts agreed upon by adverse parties, or it may designate one or more of its members to hear evidence and report the same to the Judicial Council.

¶ 917. In all other respects, except as provided herein, the proceedings before the Judicial Council in such matters shall be governed by the same rules and regulations as those under which appeals to the Judicial Council are heard.

¶ 918. The decisions of the Judicial Council on questions of law, with a summary of the facts and of the opinion, shall be filed with the secretary of the General Conference, and shall be published in the following manner:

1. Following each session of the Judicial Council the official publications of the church shall publish an official summary, prepared by the secretary of the council, of the decisions arrived at during that session.

2. The decisions of the Judicial Council rendered dur-

* See Judicial Council Decision 23.

ing each year shall be published in the General Minutes of The Methodist Church.⁵

CHAPTER II

TRIAL OF A BISHOP OR TRAVELING PREACHER

SECTION I. Offenses for Which a Bishop or Traveling Preacher or Local Preacher May Be Tried

¶ 921. A bishop or traveling preacher or local preacher shall be liable to accusation and trial upon any of the following charges:

- a) Unchristian tempers, words, or actions.
- b) Disobedience to the order and discipline of the church.
- c) Imprudent or unministerial conduct.
- d) Habitual neglect of duties as a member or officer in the church.
- e) Disseminating doctrines contrary to the Articles of Religion or other established standards of doctrine of the church.
- f) Immorality or crime.
- g) Maladministration in office in the church.

SEC. II. Investigation and Trial of a Bishop

¶ 922. A bishop is amenable for his conduct to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference in which he has residential or presidential supervision, or to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference to which he is related.

¶ 923. If a bishop shall be accused in writing of any

⁵ The General Conference of 1952 directed its secretary to publish in its journal all decisions of the Judicial Council rendered prior to the end of its session, and recommended to succeeding General Conferences the plan of publishing in their respective journals the decisions of the Judicial Council rendered during the quadrennium. The General Conference of 1956 endorsed this plan and directed its secretary to publish in its journal the decisions rendered during the quadrennium 1952-56, and in addition directed the editors of the Discipline to include in the Appendix the digests of all decisions rendered by the Judicial Council. (See ¶ 2002.)

of the offenses hereinbefore mentioned (¶ 921) in the interval between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference, the district superintendent within whose district the offense is said to have been committed shall call the Committee of Investigation of that Annual Conference, who shall carefully inquire into the case; and if, in the judgment of the majority of them, there is reasonable ground for such accusation, they shall prepare and sign the proper charges and specifications, and send a copy of the same to the accused, and to the president of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction in which the offense took place. The said president shall call together at some convenient place, in not less than ten nor more than fifteen days from the time he receives the charges, nine traveling elders of the said jurisdiction, and also the witnesses by whom the accusation is expected to be proved. The said president or some other bishop of the jurisdiction appointed by him shall preside at the investigation. If possible the accused shall have the right to make a statement in his own behalf and to interrogate witnesses, but shall not himself present any. If six or more of these traveling elders determine that a trial is justified, they shall order one, and they may suspend the bishop pending trial as hereinafter provided.

¶ 924. In case a trial be ordered, the president of the College of Bishops of the said jurisdiction shall within seven days from the date on which a trial is ordered fix the time and place of it, which shall be in not less than thirty or more than sixty days from the date of such order. The Trial Court shall be constituted as follows:

1. The bishop shall arrange for a meeting of the accused and his counsel and the counsel for the church, as early as practicable after the trial is ordered, to select the members of the Trial Court.

2. The bishop shall nominate, as proposed members of the Trial Court, thirteen traveling elders from a list made up of the Committees of Investigation of not fewer than four Annual Conferences within the jurisdiction.

3. The church and the accused each shall have the right of peremptory challenge to the number of four and of unlimited challenge for cause.

4. For each name stricken from this list of thirteen through the exercise of the right of challenge, the bishop shall add another from the eligible group until the required number of thirteen is thus selected. If necessary to complete the panel, nominations may be made from other traveling elders in the jurisdiction.

5. By a continuation of this same process four alternates shall be chosen who shall be called in the order of their election to serve.

6. Should the accused be the president of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction, then a copy of such charges and specifications shall be sent to the secretary of the College of Bishops of that jurisdiction, who shall perform the duties hereinabove prescribed for the president, or designate another bishop of the same jurisdiction.

¶ 925. The court as thus constituted shall have full power to try the accused and by a vote of nine or more to suspend him from the exercise of the functions of his office; to depose him from his office or the ministry or both; to expel him from the church; or, in case of minor offenses, to fix a lesser penalty. Its findings shall be final, subject to appeal to the Judicial Council as hereinafter provided, and shall be reported to the Jurisdictional Conference for entry on its journal. The records of the trial, including the testimony, shall be signed by the president and secretary of the Trial Court and shall be placed in the custody of the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference, together with all the documents in the case, for preservation with the papers of the Jurisdictional Conference, and shall be the basis of any appeal which may be taken.

¶ 926. An accusation preferred during the session of a Jurisdictional Conference shall be made directly to the Committee on Episcopacy, which shall investigate the charge, and, if it consider a trial necessary, shall report to the Jurisdictional Conference. If the Committee on Episcopacy should decide a trial necessary, it shall formulate charges and specifications, conforming them to the grade of offense involved in the accusation, and it shall appoint one or more of its members to prosecute the case.

The bill of charges and specifications shall be a part of the report of the committee to the Jurisdictional Conference.

¶ 927. Every case to be tried under the process stated in the foregoing paragraph (¶ 926) shall be referred to a Trial Court which shall consist of thirteen traveling elders and a presiding officer, all of whom shall be appointed by the president in the chair or in such manner as the conference may determine. The church and the accused each shall have, in addition to the right of unlimited challenge for cause, the right of peremptory challenge to the number of four. The court as thus constituted shall have full power to try the accused and by a two-thirds vote to suspend him from his office; to depose him from his office or the ministry, or both; to expel him from the church; or, in case of minor offenses, to fix a lesser penalty. Its findings shall be final, subject to appeal to the Judicial Council as hereinafter provided.

¶ 928. A bishop suspended or deposed shall have no claim upon the Episcopal Fund for salary, dwelling, or any other expenses from the date of such suspension or deposition; but in case he is thereafter found not guilty of the charge or charges for which he was suspended or deposed, his claim upon the Episcopal Fund for the period during which he was deprived of the functions of his office shall be paid to him.

¶ 929. If an alleged offense has been committed beyond the bounds of any district, the district superintendent within the bounds of whose district the bishop resides shall proceed as hereinbefore provided.

¶ 930. The several Central Conferences shall make suitable rules for the investigation and trial of charges against bishops elected by them. In the absence of such rules the same procedure shall be followed as is provided for the investigation and trial of bishops in Jurisdictional Conferences; *provided*, however, that an appeal may be taken to the Judicial Council. If an accused bishop is the only bishop in his Central Conference, the Council of Bishops shall designate one of their number to conduct the trial.

Sec. III. Investigation and Trial of a Traveling Preacher

¶ 931. Each Annual Conference at each session, upon nomination of the presiding bishop, shall elect five elders, men of experience and sound judgment in the affairs of the church, who shall be known as the **Committee of Investigation**, and three reserves chosen in like manner, to serve in the absence or disqualification of the principals.

¶ 932. If a traveling preacher, whether on trial or in full connection, in the interval between sessions of his conference, shall be accused of any of the offenses enumerated in ¶ 921, his district superintendent, or the superintendent of the district within the bounds of which such acts are alleged to have taken place, shall call the Committee of Investigation to inquire into the same, and, if possible, bring the accused and accuser face to face. The accused shall have the right to make a statement in his own behalf, but shall not present any witnesses. The district superintendent shall preside throughout the proceedings, and shall certify and declare the judgment of the committee.

¶ 933. If the accused is a district superintendent, the bishop in charge shall call in the superintendent of any other district or a traveling elder of the Annual Conference, who shall summon the Committee of Investigation of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a member to investigate the case, and he shall preside at the investigation.

¶ 934. If in the judgment of a majority of the Committee of Investigation there is reasonable ground for such accusation, they shall prepare and sign the proper charges and specifications, send a copy to the accused, to the bishop in charge, to the district superintendent or the traveling elder duly appointed by the bishop in charge, and to the secretary of the Annual Conference. On recommendation of the Committee of Investigation the bishop may suspend the accused from all ministerial services pending the trial.

¶ 935. The bishop in charge, or the district superin-

⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 89.

⁷ See Judicial Council Decision 89.

tendent or the traveling elder duly appointed by the bishop in charge, within ten days after receipt of a copy of such charges; shall appoint counsel for the church and notify the accused in writing to appear at a fixed time and place no less than seven days after service of such notice and within a reasonable time thereafter to select the members of the **Trial Court**. At the appointed time, in the presence of the accused and his counsel, if requested, and counsel for the church, thirteen effective elders shall be selected as a Trial Court. They shall be selected from a panel of twenty-one effective elders of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a member, who have been nominated by the majority of the district superintendents of that conference. The counsel for the church and the accused shall each have peremptory challenges to the number of four and challenges for cause without limit. If by reason of challenges for cause being sustained the number is reduced below thirteen, additional elders shall be nominated, in like manner as was the original panel, to take the places of the numbers challenged, who likewise shall be subject to challenge for cause. This method of procedure shall be followed until a Trial Court of thirteen members has been selected. The presiding officer in charge shall also fix the time and place for the trial, notice of which shall be given in writing to the accused by the counsel for the church seven days in advance of the time fixed; *provided* that, with the consent of the accused, the time of the trial may be fixed at an earlier date. The bishop in charge, or another bishop invited by him, or a traveling elder appointed by him, shall preside at the trial. The presiding officer shall appoint a secretary, who shall keep a record of the proceedings and of the testimony. The court thus constituted shall have full power to try the accused and upon his conviction by a vote of nine or more thereof shall have power to suspend him from the exercise of the functions of his office; to depose him from his office or the ministry or both; to expel him from the church; or, in case of conviction of minor offenses, to fix a lesser penalty. Its findings shall be final, subject to appeal to the Committee on Appeals of the Jurisdictional Conference or the Central Confer-

ence as the case may be. It shall make a faithful report in writing of all its proceedings, signed by the president and secretary of the committee, to the secretary of the Annual Conference for permanent record, and deliver to him therewith the bill of charges, the evidence taken, and the decision rendered, together with all documents brought into the trial.

¶ 936. When accusation against a traveling preacher is preferred during the session of an Annual Conference, it shall be referred to the Annual Conference Committee of Investigation, which committee shall report to the conference whether or not a trial is deemed necessary. The Committee of Investigation, when reporting a case for trial, shall formulate a bill of charges and specifications. The presiding bishop shall appoint some traveling elder of the conference as counsel for the church.

¶ 937. The conference may constitute a Trial Court of thirteen effective elders to try the accused in the same manner as in ¶ 935. The Trial Court in the presence of a bishop or of a chairman whom the president of the conference shall have appointed, and one of the secretaries of the conference, shall try the case. The Trial Court thus constituted shall have full power, upon conviction of the accused by two-thirds vote thereof, to expel him from the ministry and membership of the church; to depose him from the ministry of the church; to suspend him from his office in the ministry; or to fix a lesser penalty. Its findings shall be final, subject to appeal to the Committee on Appeals of the Jurisdictional Conference. It shall make a faithful report in writing of all its proceedings, duly signed by the president and secretary of the Trial Court, to the secretary of the Annual Conference for entry on its journal, and deliver to him therewith the bill of charges and specifications, the evidence taken, and the decision rendered, with all documents brought into the trial. The Annual Conference may order the completion of such trial before the final adjournment of the session.^a

^a See Judicial Council Decision 116.

¶ 938. When an accused is tried and the specific charge is not sustained by the evidence, but the accused has been found guilty of imprudent or of unministerial conduct, this fact may be so declared and a suitable penalty imposed by the court.

¶ 939. Any traveling preacher residing beyond the bounds of his own conference shall be subject to the investigation prescribed in ¶¶ 931-35, under the authority of the superintendent of the district within which he resides, or within which he is employed. The Committee of Investigation shall consist of the Committee of Investigation of that conference. If he resides or is employed within the bounds of a Mission, he shall be subject to investigation under the authority of the superintendent of the district within which he holds his Quarterly Conference membership or of the superintendent of the Mission and the Committee of Investigation of the same. If he is the superintendent of the Mission, the bishop in charge shall appoint an elder to act in the case.

¶ 940. An Annual Conference may entertain and try charges against its ministerial members though no investigation of them has been held, or though the investigation has not resulted in suspension.

¶ 941. In all the foregoing cases the papers, including the record, charges, evidence, and findings, shall be transmitted to the ensuing session of the Annual Conference of which the accused is a member; on which papers, and on such other evidence as may be admitted, and also upon such other charges or specifications as may be presented, due notice of the same having been given to the accused, the case shall be determined.

¶ 942. In cases of unchristian temper, words, or actions, the traveling preacher so offending shall be admonished by his district superintendent. If he offends again, one or more ministers are to be taken as witnesses. If he continues to offend, the district superintendent shall proceed as directed in ¶¶ 931-35.

¶ 943. Any traveling preacher who shall hold a religious service within the bounds of a pastoral charge not his own, when requested by the preacher in charge or the

district superintendent not to hold such service, shall be deemed guilty of disobedience to the order and discipline of the church; and if he shall not refrain from such conduct, he shall be liable to investigation and trial.

¶ 944. If a traveling preacher is charged with disseminating publicly or privately doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion, or to other existing and established standards of doctrine, and the minister so offending shall solemnly promise the Committee of Investigation not to disseminate such erroneous doctrines in public or private, it may waive suspension in order that the case may be laid before the next Annual Conference, which shall determine the matter.

SEC. IV. Trial of an Approved Supply Pastor

¶ 945. For the provisions regarding investigation and trial of an approved supply pastor see Chapter III, Section I, "Investigation and Trial of a Local Preacher," ¶¶ 957-65, also ¶ 981.

SEC. V. Preachers in Provisional Annual Conferences

¶ 946. In all matters of judicial administration the rights, duties, and responsibilities of ministerial members of Missions and Provisional Annual Conferences are the same as those in Annual Conferences, and the procedure is the same.

SEC. VI. Maladministration

¶ 947. Complaint against the administration of a bishop may be forwarded to the Jurisdictional or Central Conference and entertained there; *provided* that at least thirty days' notice in writing shall have been given to the accused and to the secretary of the conference. This shall not preclude earlier action as provided in ¶¶ 922-23.

¶ 948. A traveling preacher shall be answerable to his conference on a charge of maladministration, but not for error in judgment.

¶ 949. Errors of administration not connected with judicial proceedings may be presented in writing to the

presiding bishop for his decision thereon; and the Annual Conference may order just and suitable remedies when the rights of ministers or members of the church have been injuriously affected by such errors.

SEC. VII. Status of a Bishop or Traveling Preacher Deposed or Expelled

¶ 950. In case a bishop or a traveling preacher shall have been deposed from the ministry without being expelled from the church, he shall be given a **certificate of membership in the church** signed by the president and secretary of the conference.

¶ 951. In case a bishop or a traveling preacher shall have been deposed from the ministry or expelled from the church for teaching publicly or privately doctrines contrary to our Articles of Religion, or our other established standards of doctrine, he shall not again be licensed to preach until, if a traveling preacher, he shall have satisfied the Annual Conference from which he was deposed or expelled; or, if a bishop, he shall have satisfied the Annual Conference from which he was elected bishop, and shall have promised in writing to desist wholly from disseminating such doctrine.

SEC. VIII. Withdrawal Under Complaints or Charges

¶ 952. When a bishop or a traveling preacher is accused of an offense under ¶ 921 and desires to withdraw from the church, the Jurisdictional or Central Conference in the case of a bishop, or the Annual Conference in the case of a traveling preacher, may permit him to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under complaints." If formal charges have been presented, he may be permitted to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under charges." In either case his status shall be the same as if he had been expelled.⁹

⁹ See Judicial Council Decision 104.

CHAPTER III

INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF OTHER THAN TRAVELING PREACHERS

SECTION I. Investigation and Trial of a Local Preacher

¶ 957. Each District Conference at each session, upon nomination of its president, shall elect three local preachers and two reserves, of experience and sound judgment in the affairs of the church, who shall be known as the **Committee of Investigation**. The reserves shall serve in the absence or disqualification of the principals. Where no District Conference exists, the Annual Conference Committee of Investigation shall act.

¶ 958. When a local preacher, ordained or unordained, whether or not serving as an approved supply pastor, is accused of any of the offenses enumerated in ¶ 921, the district superintendent shall call the Committee of Investigation to meet, before which it shall be the duty of the accused to appear. If in the judgment of a majority of the Committee of Investigation there is reasonable ground for such accusation, they shall prepare and sign the proper charges and send a copy to the accused and to the district superintendent; and the accused may be suspended from all ministerial services pending trial. In all such cases at least seven days' notice shall be given the accused by the district superintendent. Such notice shall contain a full statement of the charges.

¶ 959. The district superintendent within ten days after giving notice of the charges shall select a **Trial Committee** of nine members and seven reserves, of experience and sound judgment in the affairs of the church, who shall be local preachers or, when necessary, members of the church. The reserves shall serve in the absence or disqualification of the principals. The church and the accused shall have three peremptory challenges and unlimited challenges for cause. The committee in the presence of the district superintendent or the traveling elder appointed by him, and a secretary appointed by the committee, shall have full power to consider and deter-

mine the case and by a two-thirds vote to convict the accused. They may suspend him from the functions of his office, or depose him from his office or the ministry or both, or expel him from the church. The secretary shall make a correct report in writing of all proceedings, evidence, and findings to the secretary of the District Conference and shall deliver to him all the papers in the case. Where there is no District Conference, then the Quarterly Conference of which the accused is a member shall act.

¶ 960. In case of unchristian temper, words, or actions, the local preacher so offending shall be admonished by his district superintendent. Should a second transgression take place, one or two members of the church are to be taken as witnesses. If he continues to offend, the case shall be investigated as provided in ¶¶ 958-59.

¶ 961. If on due trial a local preacher is found neglectful of his duties as a local preacher or unacceptable in his ministry, he may be deprived of his ministerial office; in which case, if he is ordained, the district superintendent shall require him to surrender his credentials that they may be returned to the Annual Conference.

¶ 962. If a local preacher shall disseminate, publicly or privately, doctrines which are contrary to our Articles of Religion, or to our other present existing and established standards of doctrine, the same procedure shall be observed as prescribed in ¶¶ 958-59.

¶ 963. A local preacher who shall hold religious services within the bounds of a pastoral charge not his own; when requested not to do so by the preacher in charge or district superintendent, shall be deemed guilty of disobedience to the order and discipline of the church and shall be brought to investigation or trial.

¶ 964. When a local elder or deacon is complained of as being so unacceptable or inefficient as to be no longer useful in his work, and the District or Quarterly Conference for that reason refuses to pass his character, the District or Quarterly Conference shall investigate the case; and if it appears that the complaint is well founded, and if he fails to give the conference satisfactory assurance that he will amend, or voluntarily surrender his

credentials, the conference may depose him from the ministry. He may defend himself before the conference, in person or by representative. The president of the District or Quarterly Conference shall in this case comply with the requirements of ¶ 961.

¶ 965. In Provisional Annual Conferences or Missions in the United States, its territories, and insular possessions, the power to try local preachers shall remain with the respective District or Quarterly Conference; but local preachers so tried and convicted shall have the right of appeal to the annual session of the Provisional Annual Conference or the Mission.

SEC. II. Investigation and Trial of a Deaconess

¶ 966. When a deaconess is accused of any violation of a moral law, the district superintendent under whose supervision she works shall call a committee of three or more for investigation and preside at the investigation. This committee shall consist of one representative of the Commission on Deaconess Work and two or more members of the Annual Conference Deaconess Board of which the accused is a member. She shall appear before this committee, and, if charges are sustained, she shall be suspended from all deaconess services pending trial. The said district superintendent shall notify the bishop in charge, who within seven days of the receipt of such notice shall fix the time and date for the convening of the Trial Court. In this instance the Annual Conference Deaconess Board shall be the Trial Court. If the accused is found guilty, the Annual Conference Deaconess Board shall recommend to the Commission on Deaconess Work that she be suspended or deprived of office and credentials.

¶ 967. In case of improper temper, words, actions, or disloyalty to the rules and regulations of the administration or other organization with which she serves, the deaconess so offending shall be admonished by the president of the Annual Conference Deaconess Board. If she continues to offend, the case shall be investigated and tried as provided in ¶ 966.

¶ 968. If a deaconess shall contract debts which she is not able to pay, the president of the Annual Confer-

ence Deaconess Board shall appoint three judicious members of the Annual Conference Deaconess Board to consider her accounts, contracts, and circumstances. If, in their opinion, she has behaved dishonestly, or contracted debts without the probability of paying, the same procedure shall be followed as defined in ¶¶ 966-67.

SEC. III. Investigation and Trial of a Church Member

¶ 969. *Offenses for Which a Lay Member May Be Tried.*—A member shall be liable to accusation and trial upon any of the following charges:

- a) Immorality or crime.
- b) Disseminating doctrines contrary to the Articles of Religion or other established standards of doctrine of the church.
- c) Disobedience to the order and discipline of the church.
- d) Buying, selling, or manufacturing intoxicating liquor as a beverage; renting his property for the manufacture or sale thereof; signing a petition in favor of granting a license for the sale thereof; procuring a license for the sale of such liquors; becoming surety on the bond of any person engaged in such traffic; or persisting in the use of intoxicating liquor after private reproof and admonition by the pastor or church lay leader.

¶ 970. In cases of neglect of duties of any kind, indulging in sinful tempers or words, "taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus," or disobedience to the order and discipline of the church, the pastor or church lay leader shall privately admonish a member; and if there is an acknowledgment of fault and proper repentance, the person may be borne with. Failing such, or on further offense, the pastor or lay leader may take with him one or two discreet members of the church and give further reproof. If the offense be continued, the member shall be brought to trial.

¶ 971. If a member of the church shall be accused of endeavoring to sow dissension in the church by inveighing against its doctrines or discipline, its ministers or members, or in any other manner, he shall first be re-

proved by the pastor or church lay leader. If he shall persist in such practice, he shall be brought to trial.

¶ 972. *Investigation.*—If charges are made in writing to the preacher in charge against a member of the church, the preacher in charge shall call a **Committee of Investigation** composed of seven members of the church in good standing, and shall preside at the investigation. The accused and the accuser shall be brought face to face if possible, and the accused shall have right of making a statement in his own behalf and of interrogating witnesses, but shall not have the right of presenting witnesses. If the Committee of Investigation determines that a trial is justified, it shall formulate the charges and specifications and order a trial.

¶ 973. *Trial Court.*—If a member be brought to trial, it shall be before a **Trial Court** composed of not fewer than seven nor more than twelve members. They shall be chosen by the Quarterly Conference by ballot. The accused member and the person conducting the prosecution may each challenge anyone so chosen for cause of disqualification by reason of personal interest or having formed and expressed an opinion concerning the matter, and shall also have three peremptory challenges. If the pastor deem it advisable for obtaining a fair trial, the Quarterly Conference shall call a committee of like members from any part of the district. The same right of challenge shall be recognized. The district superintendent or a traveling elder appointed by him shall preside at the trial.

¶ 974. *Penalties.*—If the accused shall be found guilty by the decision of at least two thirds of the Trial Court, they shall so declare, and the president of the Trial Court shall at once pronounce the member to be expelled from the church; *provided*, however, that the Trial Court may impose a lesser penalty because of mitigating circumstances or other grounds.

¶ 975. *New Trial.*—If within sixty days after his conviction under the foregoing provisions the accused shall make application in writing to the district superintendent for a new trial on the ground of newly discovered evidence, and shall submit therewith a written statement of the same, and if it shall appear that such evidence is

material to the issue involved, the district superintendent shall grant a new trial.

¶ 976. In no case shall a new trial be granted upon newly discovered evidence which could have been obtained for the trial by the exercise of due diligence, or which is merely cumulative in its effect.

¶ 977. *Restoration.*—An expelled member shall have no privileges of the society or of the Sacraments of the church without repentance, contrition, and satisfactory reformation according to the determination of the Quarterly Conference. In such case that body may restore the member into full membership.

SEC. IV. Withdrawal Under Complaints or Charges

¶ 981. When a local preacher is accused of an offense under ¶ 921 and desires to withdraw from the church, the District Conference or, where there is no District Conference, the Quarterly Conference may permit him to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under complaints." If formal charges have been presented, he may be permitted to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under charges." In either case the status of the person withdrawn shall be the same as if expelled.

¶ 982. When a deaconess is accused of an offense and desires to withdraw from the church, the Annual Conference Deaconess Board may recommend to the Commission on Deaconess Work that she be permitted to withdraw, in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under complaints." If formal charges have been presented, such deaconess may be permitted to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under charges." In either case the status shall be the same as if the deaconess had been expelled.

¶ 983. When a member of the church is accused of an offense and desires to withdraw from the church, the Quarterly Conference may permit such member to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under complaints." If formal charges have been presented,

such member may be permitted to withdraw; in which case the record shall be, "Withdrawn under charges." In either case the status shall be the same as if the member had been expelled.

CHAPTER IV

THE DEPRIVATION AND RESTORATION OF CREDENTIALS

SEC. I. Of the Credentials of Traveling Deacons or Elders

¶ 991. When a traveling deacon or elder is deprived of his credentials of ordination, by expulsion or otherwise, they shall be filed with the papers of his Annual Conference.

¶ 992. When a traveling deacon or elder desires to surrender his credentials and retain his membership in our church, he shall be permitted to do so, and to designate the local church in which he will hold membership. The secretary of the conference to which he surrenders his credentials shall issue to him a **certificate of membership** in the church; *provided* that no minister shall be permitted to take such action when charges involving his character have been made and sustained or are pending. When his character is involved in cases where the laws permits final adjustment by the surrender of credentials, this shall be also the surrender of membership in the church.

¶ 993. The Annual Conference to which credentials were surrendered as provided in ¶¶ 991-92 may restore the same at its discretion if no charges or complaints against the minister had been lodged or were impending at the time of his surrendering the said credentials; and if at the time of his request for the restoration of the said credentials he is a member in good standing of The Methodist Church and shall present from his Quarterly Conference a certificate of his character and a recom-

mendation for the restoration of his credentials. In cases of surrender of credentials under situations involving the character of the minister the said credentials may be restored only after the lapse of a period of at least two years and upon the following conditions:

a) That the conference holding the credentials shall be assured that there has been a complete amendment of life upon the part of the former holder of the credentials.

b) That he shall have been readmitted on trial into the Annual Conference from which he withdrew or admitted to another Annual Conference on trial or been licensed as a local preacher by some District or Quarterly Conference.

c) That the Annual Conference which has admitted him on trial (if another than the one from which he withdrew) or the District or Quarterly Conference which licensed him shall present to the Annual Conference holding the credentials a certificate of his good character and a recommendation that his credentials be restored.¹⁰

SEC. II. Of the Credentials of Local Deacons or Elders

¶ 994. When a local deacon or elder is deprived of his credentials of ordination, by expulsion or otherwise, the district superintendent shall require them of him, and file them with the Annual Conference in the bounds of which the local preacher resides.

¶ 995. Should he later produce to the Annual Conference a recommendation from the District Conference for the restoration of his credentials, signed by its president and secretary, they may be restored to him.

SEC. III. Of the Restoration of Lost Credentials

¶ 996. Should the credentials of any deacon or elder be destroyed or lost, the bishop who ordained him, or the bishop in whose territory he resides, upon ascertaining the necessary facts, may issue duplicate credentials.

¹⁰ See Judicial Council Decisions 18, 104.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL DIRECTONS

SECTION I.

Charges

¶ 1001. No charge shall be entertained for any alleged offense which shall not have been committed within two years immediately preceding the filing of the complaint, except in cases where there is a conviction in a civil or criminal court, and in such cases the charges must be filed within one year after the entry of the final judgment.

¶ 1002. A charge shall not allege more than one offense; several charges against the same person, however, with the specifications under each of them, may be presented at one and the same time and may be tried together. When several charges are tried at the same time, a vote on each specification and charge must be separately taken.

¶ 1003. Amendments may be made to a bill of charges up to the time of the opening of the trial at the discretion of the presiding officer, *provided* they relate to the form of statement only and do not change the nature of the alleged offense and do not introduce new matter of which the accused has not had due notice.

¶ 1004. In case of improper words, tempers, and actions, a charge of slander shall not be entertained unless signed by a person alleged to have been slandered.

¶ 1005. Charges and specifications for the trial of a bishop, traveling preacher, local preacher, deaconess, or member shall define the offense by its generic term as set forth in ¶¶ 921 and 969 and shall state in substance the facts upon which said charges are based.

SEC. II.

Counsel

¶ 1006. In all cases of trial the accused shall be entitled to appear and to be represented by counsel of his own selection and to be heard in oral or written argument. Such counsel shall be one traveling elder if the accused is a bishop or a traveling preacher, or one member in good

standing in The Methodist Church if the accused is a lay member.

¶ 1007. In all cases of trial where counsel has not been provided, such counsel shall be appointed by the presiding officer. The counsel for the church and for the accused each shall be entitled to one assistant counsel of his own choosing.¹¹

SEC. III.

Notice

¶ 1008. All notices required or provided for in this chapter shall be in writing, signed by or on behalf of the person or body giving or required to give such notice, and shall be addressed to the person or body to whom it is required to be given. Such notices shall be served at least seven days in advance by delivering a copy thereof to the party or chief officer of the body to whom it is addressed in person or by registered mail addressed to the last known residence or address of such party. The fact of the giving of the notice shall affirmatively appear over the signature of the party required to give such notice and become a part of the record of the case.

¶ 1009. In all cases wherein it is provided that notice shall be given to a bishop or district superintendent and the charges or complaints are against that particular person, then such notice, in the case of a bishop, shall be given to another bishop within the same jurisdiction; in case of a district superintendent, to the bishop in charge.

SEC. IV.

Trials

¶ 1010. In all cases of investigation or trial, notice to appear shall be given to such witnesses as either party may name, and shall be issued in the name of the church and be signed by the presiding officer of the trial court.

¶ 1011. It shall be the duty of a minister or a member of the church to appear and testify when summoned.

¶ 1012. As soon as the court has convened, the accused shall be called upon by the presiding officer to plead

¹¹ See Judicial Council Decision 116.

to the charge, and his pleas shall be duly recorded. On his neglect or refusal to plead, the plea of "not guilty" shall be entered for him, and the trial shall proceed; *provided* that for sufficient cause the court may adjourn from time to time as convenience or necessity may require; and *provided*, also, that the accused shall, at all times during the trial, have liberty to be present except as hereinafter mentioned and in due time and order to produce his testimony and to make his defense.

¶ 1013. If in any case the accused person, after due notice (seven days) has been given him, shall refuse or neglect to appear at the time and place set forth for the hearing, the investigation or trial may proceed in his absence. In all cases, sufficient time shall be allowed for the person to appear at the given place and time, and for the accused to prepare for the investigation or trial. The president of the tribunal to investigate or try the case shall decide what constitutes "sufficient time."

¶ 1014. The court shall be a continuing body until the final disposition of the charge. If any member of the court shall be unable to attend all of the sessions, he shall not vote upon the final determination of the case, but the rest of the court may proceed to judgment. It shall require a vote of two thirds or more of the original membership of the court to sustain the charges.

¶ 1015. All objections to the regularity of the proceedings and the form and substance of charges and specifications shall be made at the first session of the trial. The presiding officer upon the filing of such objection shall, or on his own motion may, determine all such preliminary objection and may dismiss the case or in furtherance of truth and justice permit amendments to the specifications or charges not changing the general nature of the same.

¶ 1016. Objections of any party to the proceedings shall be entered on the record.

¶ 1017. No witness—afterward to be examined—shall be present during the examination of another witness if the opposing party objects. Witnesses shall be examined first by the party producing them, then cross-examined by the opposite party, after which any member of the court or

either party may put additional questions. The presiding officer of the court shall determine all questions of relevancy and competency of evidence.

¶ 1018. In case of investigation, trial, or appeal the presiding officer shall not deliver a charge reviewing or explaining the evidence or setting forth the merits of the case. He shall express no opinion on the law or the facts while the court is deliberating, unless the parties in interest be present. He shall remain and preside until the decision is rendered and the findings are completed, which he shall thereupon sign and certify.

SEC. V.

Testimony

¶ 1019. The testimony shall be taken by a stenographer, if convenient, and reduced to writing and certified by the presiding officer and secretary. The record, including all exhibits, papers, and evidence in the case, shall be the basis of any appeal which may be taken.

¶ 1020. A witness may not be disqualified because he is not a member of The Methodist Church.

¶ 1021. The presiding officer of any court before which a case may be pending or the bishop in charge of an Annual Conference shall have power, whenever the necessity of the parties or of witnesses shall require, to appoint, on the application of either party, a commissioner or commissioners, either a minister or layman, or both, to examine the witnesses; *provided* that three days' notice of the time and place of taking such testimony shall have been given to the adverse party. Counsel for both parties shall be permitted to examine and cross-examine the witness or witnesses whose testimony is thus taken. The commissioners so appointed shall take such testimony in writing as may be offered by either party. The testimony properly certified by the signature of the commissioner or commissioners shall be transmitted to the presiding officer of the court before which the case is pending.

SEC. VI.

Records

¶ 1022. In all investigations and trials the records shall be accurate and full; they shall include the pro-

ceedings in detail and all the evidence, taken stenographically if possible, the documents admitted, together with the charges, specifications, and findings, and shall be approved and attested by the presiding officer and secretary. In all investigations and trials the presiding officer shall appoint a secretary to keep a record of the proceedings and documents, of which records, when properly attested, the said presiding officer shall be the custodian. If no appeal is taken, the custodian shall deliver the entire record to the secretary of the conference concerned for record in its journal of the final disposition of the case.

¶ 1023. If appeal be taken, the custodian shall deliver the entire record to the president of the proper appellate court, and after it has been used in the court it shall be returned to the secretary of the conference concerned for notation in its journal of the final disposition of the case.

¶ 1024. The secretaries of Quarterly, District, Annual, and Jurisdictional Conferences shall be the custodians of the records of all trials occurring in their bodies respectively; and in case of appeal they shall deliver said records to the president or secretary of the proper appellate court. After the said appeal has been heard the records shall be returned to the conference from which they came.

SEC. VII.

Appeals

¶ 1025. In all cases of appeal the appellant shall within thirty days give notice of appeal and at the same time shall furnish to the officer receiving such notice, and to the counsel for the church, a written statement of the grounds of his appeal, and the hearing in the appellate court shall be limited to the grounds set forth in such statement.¹²

¶ 1026. When any appellate court shall reverse, in whole or in part, the findings of a trial court, or remand the case for a new trial, or change the penalty imposed by that court, it shall return to the Annual Conference or

to the secretary of the trial court a statement of the grounds of its action.

¶ 1027. An appeal shall not be allowed in any case in which the accused has failed or refused to be present in person or by counsel at his trial. Appeals, regularly taken, shall be heard by the proper appellate court, unless it shall appear to the said court that the appellant has forfeited his right to appeal by misconduct, such as refusal to abide by the findings of the committee of investigation or of the trial court; or by withdrawal from the church; or by failure to appear in person or by counsel to prosecute the appeal; or, prior to the final decision on appeal from his conviction, by resorting to suit in the civil courts against the complainant or any of the parties connected with the ecclesiastical court in which he was tried.¹³

¶ 1028. The right of appeal, when once forfeited by neglect or otherwise, cannot be revived by any subsequent appellate court.

¶ 1029. The right to take and to prosecute an appeal shall not be affected by the death of the person entitled to such right. His heirs or legal representatives may prosecute such appeal as he would be entitled to do if he were living.

¶ 1030. The records and documents of the trial, including the evidence, and these only, shall be used in the hearing of any appeal, except as set forth in ¶¶ 947-49.

¶ 1031. In no case shall an appeal operate as suspension of sentence. The findings of the trial court must stand until it is modified or reversed by the proper appellate court.

¶ 1032. In all cases where an appeal is made, and admitted, by the appellate court, after the charges, findings, and evidence have been read and the arguments concluded, the parties shall withdraw, and the appellate court shall consider and decide the case. It may reverse, in whole or in part, the findings of the trial court, or it may remand the case for a new trial. It may determine what penalty, not higher than that affixed at the trial,

¹² See Judicial Council Decision 3.

¹³ See Judicial Council Decision 3.

may be imposed. If it neither reverses, in whole or in part, the judgment of the trial court, nor remands the case for a new trial, nor modifies the penalty, that judgment shall stand. The appellate court shall not reverse the judgment nor remand the case for a new trial on account of errors plainly not affecting the result.

¶ 1033. In all cases the right to present evidence shall be exhausted when the case has been heard once on its merits in the proper court; but questions of law may be carried on appeal, step by step, to the Judicial Council.

¶ 1034. The order of appeals on questions of law shall be as follows: From the decision of the district superintendent presiding in the Quarterly or District Conference to the bishop presiding in the Annual Conference, and from the decision of the bishop presiding in the Annual Conference to the Judicial Council; and from a Central Conference to the Judicial Council.

¶ 1035. When an appeal is taken on a question of law, written notice of the same shall be served on the secretary of the body in which the decision has been rendered. It shall be his duty to see that an exact statement of the question submitted and the ruling of the chair thereon shall be entered on the journal. He shall then make and certify a copy of the question and ruling and transmit the same to the secretary of the body to which the appeal is taken. The secretary who thus receives said certified copy shall present the same in open conference and as soon as practicable lay it before the presiding officer for his ruling thereon; which ruling must be rendered before the final adjournment of that body, that said ruling together with the original question and ruling may be entered on the journal of that conference. The same course shall be followed in all subsequent appeals.

¶ 1036. Errors or defects in judicial proceedings shall be duly considered when presented on appeal.

1. In regard to cases where there is an investigation under ¶¶ 931-35, but no trial is held as a result thereof, errors of law or administration committed by a district superintendent are to be corrected by the president of the next Annual Conference on request in open session,

and in such event the conference may also order just and suitable remedies, if injury resulted from such error.

2. Errors of law or defects in judicial proceedings which are discovered on appeal are to be corrected by the president of the next Annual Conference upon request in open session, and in such event the conference may also order just and suitable remedies, if injury has resulted from such errors.

SEC. VIII. Appeal of a Bishop

¶ 1041. A bishop shall have the right of appeal to the Judicial Council in case of an adverse decision by the trial court; *provided* that within thirty days after his conviction he notify the secretary of the Jurisdictional Conference in writing of his intention to appeal, unless such decision shall be rendered within thirty days prior to the meeting of such conference, in which case notice shall be given within ten days after his conviction.

¶ 1042. A bishop elected by a Central Conference shall have the right of appeal to the Judicial Council in case of an adverse decision by the Central Conference; *provided* that within thirty days after the decision of the Central Conference he shall notify the secretary of the Central Conference in writing of his intention to appeal unless such decision shall be rendered within thirty days prior to the meeting of such conference, in which case notice shall be given within ten days after his conviction.

¶ 1043. It shall be the duty of the secretary of the Jurisdictional or the Central Conference, on receiving notice of such appeal, to notify the secretary of the Judicial Council; and the council shall fix the time and place for the hearing of the appeal, and shall give due notice of the same to the appellant and to the secretary of the Jurisdictional or Central Conference, who in turn shall notify the counsel for the church.

SEC. IX. Appeal of a Traveling Preacher

¶ 1045. Each Jurisdictional Conference, upon nomination of the College of Bishops, shall elect a **Court of Appeals** composed of nine traveling elders who have been at least six years successively members of The Methodist

Church and an equal number of alternates. This court shall serve until its successors have been confirmed. This court shall have full power to hear and determine appeals of traveling preachers taken from any Annual Conference within the jurisdiction. The court shall elect its own president and secretary and shall adopt its own rules of procedure; and its decisions shall be final, except an appeal may be taken to the Judicial Council upon questions of law. (See ¶ 1033.)

¶ 1046. In case of conviction in a trial court, a traveling preacher shall have the right of appeal to the Jurisdictional Court of Appeals as above constituted; *provided* that within thirty days after his conviction he shall notify the president of the conference in writing of his intention to appeal.

¶ 1047. When notice of an appeal has been given to the president of the trial court, he shall give notice of the same to the secretary of the Court of Appeals of the Jurisdictional Conference and submit the documents in the case. The Jurisdictional Conference Court of Appeals shall give notice to the president of the conference from which the appeal is taken and to the appellant of the time and place where the appeal will be heard. Both the Annual Conference and the appellant may be represented by counsel. The president of the conference shall appoint counsel for the church.

¶ 1048. The Court of Appeals of the Jurisdictional Conference when acting as a court of appeals shall determine two questions only:

- a) Does the evidence sustain the charge or charges?
- b) Were there such errors of law as to vitiate the verdict?

These questions shall be determined by the records of the trial and the argument of counsel for the church and for the accused. The court shall in no case hear witnesses.

¶ 1049. All necessary traveling and sustenance expense incurred by the Court of Appeals, the counsel for the church, and the counsel for the defendant, in the hearing of an appeal case coming from an Annual Conference and appearing before any Jurisdictional Court

of Appeals, shall be paid out of the administration fund of the Jurisdictional Conference in which the proceedings arise.

SEC. X. Appeal of a Local Preacher

¶ 1051. In case of conviction, a local preacher shall be allowed to appeal to the Annual Conference; *provided* that within thirty days after his conviction he shall signify in writing to the superintendent of the district his determination to appeal.

¶ 1052. An appeal by a local preacher from a Quarterly Conference within the jurisdiction of a Mission shall be to the annual meeting of the said Mission.

SEC. XI. Appeal of a Deaconess

¶ 1053. In case of conviction, a deaconess shall be allowed to appeal to the Commission on Deaconess Work; *provided* that within thirty days after her conviction she shall signify in writing to the district superintendent or president of the Annual Conference Deaconess Board by which she has been tried her determination to appeal to the Commission on Deaconess Work, which in full session, or by a special committee of not fewer than seven nor more than nine, shall hear the appeal; and its decision shall be the final determination of the case.

¶ 1054. An appeal by a deaconess from an Annual Conference Deaconess Board within the jurisdiction of a Provisional Annual Conference shall be to the Commission on Deaconess Work.

SEC. XII. Appeal of a Church Member

¶ 1056. The Quarterly Conference of each charge shall elect from among the members of the church a person of sound judgment and experience in the affairs of the church as a **trier of appeals for members**.

¶ 1057. Any member of the church against whom judgment shall have been rendered by a Trial Court may appeal to a Court of Appeal, as hereinafter constituted, by giving written notice of his desire to the district superintendent within thirty days after judgment is rendered.

¶ 1058. When thirty days' notice of appeal shall have been given, or sooner if agreed upon, the superintendent, having due regard for the wishes and rights of the appellant, shall convene a **Court of Appeal**. It shall be constituted of not fewer than seven nor more than nine triers of appeals in his district, but the trier of appeals of the charge to which the accused member belongs shall not be summoned. The district superintendent shall give not less than ten nor more than thirty days' notice to all persons concerned of the time and place at which the Court of Appeal shall assemble. The appellant shall have the right of challenge for cause of disqualification by reason of personal interest or other grounds deemed sufficient by the presiding officer, and he shall have the right of peremptory challenge of three of the panel summoned. The members of the court present and ready to proceed with the hearing shall not fall below seven, which number shall constitute a quorum. The district superintendent shall preside. The court may order a new trial or acquit the accused or impose any penalty prescribed in ¶ 974.

¶ 1059. The findings of the Court of Appeal shall be certified by the district superintendent to the pastor of the church of which the accused is a member for consistent proceedings.

¶ 1060. If the district superintendent shall find the convening of such a court to be impracticable or seriously inconvenient to the parties involved, he shall have the appeal heard by a Quarterly Conference within his district other than that of the local church. The proceedings shall be the same as provided in the foregoing paragraphs.

SEC. XIII.

Powers of Dismissal

¶ 1065. The various boards, committees, or commissions elected, authorized, or provided for by the General Conference shall have full power and authority to remove and dismiss in their discretion any member, officer, or employee thereof who shall be guilty of any immoral conduct or breach of trust, or who for any reason is unable to, or who fails to, perform the duties of his office, or for other misconduct which any of said boards, committees, or commissions may deem sufficient to warrant such

dismissal and removal. In the event that any member, officer, or employee of such board, committee, or commission, including the Board of Publication, elected, authorized, or provided for by the General Conference, is found guilty of any crime involving moral turpitude by any federal, state, or county court or pleads guilty thereto, then and in that event, the board, committee, or commission of which he is a member, officer, or employee shall be and is hereby authorized to remove such officer, member, or employee so charged or convicted; and the place so vacated shall be filled as provided in the Discipline. The action of such board, committee, or commission in removing such member, officer, or employee in the circumstances above set forth shall be final; and such member, officer, or employee so removed shall have no further authority to participate in any way in the affairs of such board, committee, or commission.

PART VII

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

[Agency is a general term meaning council, board, commission, committee, or other body established to carry out the connectional work of the church. In discussion preceding adoption of this chapter by the General Conference of 1952 it was pointed out regarding the membership limitations that the National and World Councils of Churches are not to be considered agencies of The Methodist Church.—EDITORS.]

¶ 1101. If the membership of an agency is determined in part by the size of the church membership of the jurisdictions, the jurisdictional membership according to the latest official report preceding the General Conference, as shown in the General Minutes, shall be used to determine the size of the jurisdictional representation for the ensuing quadrennium. (See ¶ 528.)

¶ 1102. No person other than a bishop shall serve at the same time on more than one agency, and no bishop shall serve at the same time on more than three agencies; *provided*, however, that this limitation shall not apply to a division of a board, to an interagency body, or to the Commission on Chaplains, the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, or the Commission on Camp Activities; and *provided*, further, that a bishop elected to the Council on World Service and Finance shall not serve on any other agency during his term on this council.¹

¶ 1103. No person who receives compensation for services rendered or commissions of any kind from a board

¹ The General Conference of 1956 directed that the restrictions imposed by this paragraph should not apply to membership on the Quadrennial Commission on Christian Higher Education (¶ 2018) or on any other special study commission appointed by that General Conference and charged with reporting to the General Conference of 1960.

or other agency shall be eligible for voting membership on that board or agency.

¶ 1104. Tenure on any division, board, commission, or council, except the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council, shall be limited to twelve consecutive years; *provided*, however, that this limitation shall take effect from the General Conference of 1952 and shall not be retroactive. To provide a continuing membership on these agencies, it is recommended that each nominating and electing body give special attention to rotation of its representatives.

¶ 1105. Unless otherwise specified, vacancies on boards and other agencies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled as follows: an episcopal vacancy shall be filled by the Council of Bishops; a vacancy in jurisdictional representation shall be filled by the College of Bishops of that jurisdiction; a vacancy in the membership at large shall be filled by the agency itself.

¶ 1106. If a bishop is unable to attend a meeting of an agency of which he is a member, the Council of Bishops may name an alternate representative to attend that meeting with the privilege of vote.

¶ 1107. An agency proposing to acquire real estate or erect a building to house its administrative activities or related operations in the continental United States shall present its plans in the formative stage to the Co-ordinating Council for approval. If the Co-ordinating Council disapproves, the agency shall delay the project until it can be considered by the next General Conference. (See ¶ 1115 § 7.)

¶ 1108. For provisions regarding the finances of the administrative agencies see Part V, Chapter II, Church Finance, especially ¶¶ 737, 741-48, 765, 768, 781-84.

CHAPTER II

CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL

¶ 1111. There shall be a Co-ordinating Council, responsible directly to the General Conference. It shall co-

ordinate the work of the general administrative agencies of The Methodist Church. Its membership shall consist of one bishop, one minister, one lay man, and one lay woman from each jurisdiction, plus one minister and one lay person for each additional million members or major fraction thereof above the first million members in a jurisdiction, all nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference; and two additional persons appointed by the Council of Bishops from among members of the church overseas who are in the United States at the time of the meetings of the council; *provided* that the Council of Bishops shall replace the representatives of the church overseas when they leave the United States. The term of membership shall be four years. (See ¶ 1104.) Members shall serve until their successors are appointed or elected. Staff members of general agencies are not eligible to membership. (See ¶ 1102.) Vacancies which occur during the quadrennium shall be filled by the College of Bishops of the appropriate jurisdiction.

¶ 1112. The Co-ordinating Council shall elect a president, a vice-president, and a recording secretary, who shall keep a permanent record of its meetings and of any decisions reached. Certified copies of the minutes shall be filed with the secretary of the General Conference and with the Council on World Service and Finance.

¶ 1113. The Co-ordinating Council shall convene annually, and at such other times as are necessary on call of the president or on written request of one fifth of the members. Sixteen members shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1114. All decisions of the Co-ordinating Council shall require a majority vote of the entire membership.

¶ 1115. The Co-ordinating Council shall have the following responsibilities:

1. On request of a general board or other agency, or of an Annual Conference, it shall review questions involving overlapping in activity or lack of co-operation among or within general agencies, and shall make recommendations to the boards or agencies involved for resolving such issues; *provided* that in a review of any such question a bishop who is a member of an agency involved shall be disqualified. In the event of noncompliance, the recommenda-

tions shall be reported to the next General Conference. A record of all recommendations shall be kept, and a report of each shall be forwarded to the Council of Bishops, the Council on World Service and Finance, and the secretary of the General Conference.

2. It shall study the general organizational structure of The Methodist Church and recommend to the General Conference such changes as it considers essential to maintain effective and economical operation.

3. In consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Council of Secretaries it shall formulate and present to the General Conference, for its action and determination, plans for a unified, ongoing program for the church, including long-range objectives. The financial objectives shall be recommended by the Council on World Service and Finance to the General Conference for its action.

4. It shall recommend to the General Conference, after consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Council on World Service and Finance, the number and timing of all special days which are to be observed on a church-wide basis, except that the Council of Bishops and the Council on World Service and Finance may authorize a special financial appeal in an emergency.

5. It shall designate the agency which shall undertake any special study authorized by the General Conference when such agency has not been indicated by the General Conference.

6. It may incur expense necessary to the performance of its functions, subject to such budgetary control as may be specified by the General Conference; *provided* that its expenses shall not exceed a total of fifteen thousand dollars annually, and shall be paid out of the General Administration Fund.

7. It shall consider the plans of any general agency proposing to acquire real estate or erect a building as described in ¶ 1107, and determine whether the proposed acquisition or erection is in the best interest of The Methodist Church. On the basis of that determination it shall approve or disapprove the project. If it disapproves, the project shall be delayed until it can be considered by the next General Conference.

CHAPTER III

COUNCIL ON WORLD SERVICE AND FINANCE

¶ 1116. There shall be a **Council on World Service and Finance**, which shall be incorporated. Its members shall be elected quadrennially by the General Conference, as follows: two bishops, nominated by the Council of Bishops; two ministers and two lay persons from each jurisdiction, nominated by the bishops of that jurisdiction; and seven members at large, at least three of whom shall be women, nominated by the Council of Bishops without reference to jurisdictions. The members, including bishops (¶ 1102), shall not be eligible to membership on, or employment by, any other general agency except The Board of Trustees of The Methodist Church. They shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. Vacancies occurring between sessions of the General Conference shall be filled by the council, on nomination of the bishops of the jurisdiction concerned or, in the event of a vacancy among the members at large, the Council of Bishops.

¶ 1117. The officers of the Council on World Service and Finance shall be a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a general secretary, who shall also be the treasurer of the council, all of whom shall be elected by the council. They shall serve until the adjournment of the next succeeding quadrennial session of the General Conference after their election and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. The president, vice-president, and recording secretary shall be elected from the membership of the council. The general secretary shall sit with the council and its executive committee at all sessions, and shall have right to the floor without the privilege of voting. (See ¶ 1103.) The employed personnel of the council shall be selected by and shall work under the direction of the general secretary.

¶ 1118. The Council on World Service and Finance shall convene annually, and at such other times as are necessary on call of the president or on written request

of one fifth of the members. Sixteen members shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1119. There shall be an executive committee of the Council on World Service and Finance consisting of the officers of the council and six members to be elected annually by the council. The executive committee shall meet on call of the president or of a majority of the membership thereof, and shall act for the council and exercise its powers in the interim of the meetings of the council; but it shall not take any action contrary to or in conflict with any action or policy of the council. A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the executive committee shall be sent from the central office to each member of the council as soon after the meeting as practicable.

¶ 1120. The Council on World Service and Finance shall have the authority and responsibility to perform the following functions:

1. Receive and disburse, in accordance with budgets approved by the General Conference, or its properly authorized agency, the general funds of the church as set forth in ¶¶ 737-39.

2. Require each world service agency to follow uniform policies and practices in the employment and remuneration of personnel, recognizing differences in local employment conditions.

3. Establish titles for the employed executive staff of world service agencies, in the interest of uniformity and consistency. (See ¶ 783.)

4. Provide legal counsel where this is necessary in order to protect the interests of the church, and as the council deems advisable, at the request of a world service agency or of a bishop.

5. Maintain and supervise, under the direction of its general secretary, a department known as the **Statistical Office** of The Methodist Church. It shall be the duty of this department to prepare the material for the General Minutes and such other related publications and year-books as may be ordered by the council. Its specialized services shall be available to any official agency of the church for the conduct of special surveys, researches, and studies as may be required in its work, by agreement

with and subject to the approval of the council. The expense of the Statistical Office, including the printing of the General Minutes and other approved publications, shall be borne by the General Administration Fund. The General Minutes shall be printed and published by The Methodist Publishing House.

6. Prepare and edit all official statistical blanks, record forms, and record books required for use in The Methodist Church, except official records for use in the local church school and forms used by the Woman's Division of Christian Service. In the preparation of these forms it shall consult with a committee appointed by the Council of Bishops from that body and with representatives of The Methodist Publishing House and of the general boards whose programs are directly involved. All official statistical blanks, record forms, and record books required for use in The Methodist Church shall be printed and published by The Methodist Publishing House.

7. Maintain and supervise, under the direction of its general secretary, a department known as the **Transportation Office**. This department shall represent the church in its relation with the responsible persons or concerns operating the several modes of public transportation. The purchase of tickets and the securing of space reservations for travel shall be placed as nearly as possible on a self-supporting basis. The costs of the Transportation Office shall be a charge against the General Administration Fund.

8. Operate, under the supervision of its general secretary, a department known as the **File of Pastors and Church Officials**. It shall be the function of this department to maintain an accurate record of the mail addresses of all bishops, ministers in the effective relation, supply pastors, including retired ministers serving charges, conference lay leaders, and such lists of general, jurisdictional, conference, and district boards, commissions, and committees, and such officers of the same as may be deemed necessary. The cost of maintaining such a service shall be a charge against the General Administration Fund. The general secretary is authorized and directed to make equitable charges for its use by various bodies. No

use of the file shall be permitted for other than authorized bodies or officers of The Methodist Church.

9. Operate, under the supervision of its executive secretary, a department known as the **Shipping and Service Department**. It shall be the function of this department to maintain such addressing, packaging, mailing, and duplicating service as may be deemed necessary to provide these services for the general agencies. The general secretary shall co-operate with the general secretary of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation in scheduling the general mailings to pastors, in the interest of proper spacing. The general secretary is authorized and directed to make equitable charges to the agencies using these services.

CHAPTER IV

THE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

SECTION I. Objects and Organization

¶ 1121. The Methodist Publishing House comprises the publishing interests of The Methodist Church.

¶ 1122. The objects of The Methodist Publishing House shall be: the advancement of the cause of Christianity by disseminating religious knowledge and useful literary and scientific information in the form of books, tracts, and periodicals; the promotion of Christian education; the transaction of any and all business properly connected with the publishing, manufacturing, and distribution of books, tracts, periodicals, materials, and supplies for churches and church schools; and such other business as the General Conference may authorize and direct.

¶ 1123. The Methodist Publishing House shall be under the direction and control of the **Board of Publication**, acting through an executive officer elected by the board, who shall be the **publisher of The Methodist Church**, and such other officers as the board may determine.

¶ 1124. The net income from the operations of The Methodist Publishing House, after providing adequate

reserves for the efficient operation of the business and allowing for reasonable growth and expansion, shall be appropriated by the Board of Publication and distributed annually to the several Annual Conferences for the persons who are and shall be conference claimants.

¶ 1125. The net income from the operations of The Methodist Publishing House shall be appropriated to no other purpose than its own operating requirements and the conference claimants, as provided in ¶ 9 § 5 and ¶ 1124.

¶ 1126. The members of the Board of Publication, and their successors in office, are declared to be the successors of the incorporators named in the charters of The Methodist Book Concern issued by the states of New York and Ohio, and in the charter of the Board of Publication of the Methodist Protestant Church issued by the state of Pennsylvania. The executive officer elected from time to time under this or any subsequent Discipline is declared to be the successor in office of the Book Agents of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, named in the charter issued to the corporation of that name by the state of Tennessee.

¶ 1127. Subject to the provisions of ¶ 1123, and to the continuing control and direction of the General Conference of The Methodist Church as set forth from time to time in the Discipline, the Board of Publication is authorized, empowered, and directed to cause the operations of The Methodist Publishing House to be carried on, and the objects defined in ¶ 1122 to be achieved, in such manner, through or by means of such agencies or instrumentalities, and by use of such procedures as the board may from time to time determine to be necessary, advisable, or appropriate, with full power and authority in the premises to take all such action and to do all such other acts and things as may be required or found to be advisable. In particular, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the board is authorized and empowered, for the purposes of this chapter:

1. To use, manage, operate, and otherwise utilize all property and assets of every kind, character, and description of four corporations—namely, The Methodist Book Concern, a corporation existing under the laws of the

state of New York; The Methodist Book Concern, a corporation existing under the laws of the state of Ohio; The Board of Publication of the Methodist Protestant Church, a corporation existing under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania; and The Book Agents of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a corporation existing under the laws of the state of Tennessee—as well as all income from such property and assets and the avails thereof, all with liability or obligation to account for such property and assets, the use thereof, the income therefrom, and avails thereof, only to the General Conference of The Methodist Church or as it shall direct.

2. To cause each of the said corporations to take all such action and to do all such things as the board may deem necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this ¶ 1127. The governing body of each of the said corporations from time to time shall take all action which the board deems to be necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this ¶ 1127. The board shall cause all legal obligations of said four corporations, now existing or hereafter incurred, to be met, fulfilled, and performed.

3. To continue to exercise the powers and administer the duties and responsibilities conferred on it as an agency of The Methodist Church through the corporation named **The Board of Publication of The Methodist Church**, incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois in accord with authority delegated to it by the General Conference of 1952, or through such other means and agencies as it may from time to time determine to be expedient and necessary in order to give full effect to the purposes expressed in this chapter.

¶ 1128. 1. Under the corporate structure of The Board of Publication of The Methodist Church, incorporated in the state of Illinois, and subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs of this chapter, the board is authorized and empowered to conduct its general operations under the name of The Methodist Publishing House.

2. The property, assets, and income of the said Illinois corporation shall be held by it, under the direction of the board, as an agency of The Methodist Church and shall

at all times be subject to the control and direction of the General Conference of The Methodist Church as set forth from time to time in the Discipline.

3. In carrying out and executing its operations and functions, the Illinois corporation shall be entitled to hold, use, manage, operate, and otherwise utilize all property and assets of every kind, character, and description of each of the four corporations identified in ¶ 1127 § 1 (other than its corporate powers and franchises) and all income therefrom, and avails thereof, for the purposes and objects defined in this chapter.

4. The governing body of each of the five existing corporations under the direction of the board shall from time to time take all such action as the board deems necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purposes of this paragraph and chapter.

5. The Illinois corporation shall be liable for and shall execute and satisfy all legal obligations of each of the four corporations named in ¶ 1127 § 1, but neither it nor the board shall have or be under any obligation to account for principal and income to any such other corporation or to otherwise report to any of them; *provided*, however, that the Illinois corporation shall return to each of the other four corporations custody and control of its real property and account to it for the net amount of any other assets received from such other corporation if and when such return or accounting shall be directed or required by the board or by any General Conference of The Methodist Church.

SEC. II.

Board of Publication

¶ 1129. The Board of Publication shall consist of forty-five members, including two bishops selected by the Council of Bishops. The remaining members shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences on a ratio which will provide for an equitable distribution among the various jurisdictions, based on the memberships thereof; *provided* that no jurisdiction shall be represented by fewer than two members. Membership on the board shall be equally divided, as far as practicable, between ministers and laymen. It shall be the duty of the secretary of the General

Conference to inform the various jurisdictional secretaries of the number of members to be elected from their jurisdictions, the ratio of such representation being computed on the basis of the latest official membership statistics available. The tenure of office of any member shall be limited to twelve years. In the first election, as nearly as may be, one third of the members from each jurisdiction shall be elected for only four years, one third for eight years, and one third for twelve years, the Jurisdictional Conference determining the tenure of office of each member elected. In case a vacancy occurs between sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference for any cause, the board shall fill the vacancy, for the unexpired term, from that jurisdiction in the representation of which the vacancy occurs. The president of The Board of Publication of The Methodist Church, Incorporated, shall be an ex officio member of the board, without vote.

¶ 1130. The board shall meet annually. The place and time of all meetings shall be designated by the board; but if it fails to do so, then the time and place shall be designated by the chairman. Special meetings may be called by the chairman on his own initiative or by the board. Special meetings shall also be called by the chairman on written request of one third of the members of the board. At all meetings of the board a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1131. The board shall keep a correct record of its proceedings and shall examine carefully into the affairs of The Methodist Publishing House and make written report thereof to the church through the General Conference.

¶ 1132. The board shall fix the salaries of the following officers; president (publisher), book editor, editors of the official church papers, editor of church-school publications, and other salaried officers provided for by this chapter.²

¶ 1133. The board, at its discretion, may continue the publication of the quarterly *Religion in Life*, with the book editor responsible for its editorial content.

¶ 1134. The members of the board and all officers

² The General Conference of 1956 directed that the board report the personnel and salaries of all executives in the quadrennial report to the 1960 General Conference.

elected by it shall hold office until their successors are chosen.

¶ 1135. The board shall elect from its membership an **executive committee**, of sixteen members, including the chairman, vice chairman, and secretary of the board, who shall serve respectively as chairman, vice chairman, and secretary of the executive committee. Not more than four members of the executive committee shall be from any one jurisdiction. In addition, the president shall be an ex officio member without vote. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the executive committee shall be filled by it, subject to confirmation by the board at its next meeting.

¶ 1136. The executive committee shall have and may exercise all the powers of the board except those expressly reserved for board action by the Discipline or by the corporate charter and by-laws. It shall meet quarterly to examine the affairs under its charge and shall keep and submit to the board correct records of its proceedings. Special meetings may be called by the chairman on his own initiative, and shall be called on the written request of five members of the executive committee. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. III.

Executives

¶ 1137. Officers of each corporation under the direction of the board shall be elected annually in accordance with its charter and by-laws.

¶ 1138. The executive officer elected pursuant to ¶ 1123 shall also be elected the **president** of each corporation under the direction of the board.

¶ 1139. The board shall require written quarterly reports to the executive committee covering the current condition and operating status of the business.

¶ 1140. The president (publisher) and the board shall have authority to extend the business of The Methodist Publishing House in such manner as they may judge to be for the best interests of the church.

¶ 1141. The board shall require the president and other corporate executive officers to give bond conditioned on

the faithful discharge of their respective duties. It also shall authorize the execution of a blanket bond covering all staff personnel whose responsibilities justify such coverage. The amount of the bonds shall be fixed by the board, and the bonds shall be subject to the approval of the board. The premiums shall be paid by the board, and the chairman of the board shall be the custodian of the bonds.

¶ 1142. The board shall have power to suspend, after hearing, and to remove, after hearing, the president or any of the officers created by this chapter, for misconduct or failure to perform the duties of their office.

SEC. IV.

Book Editor

¶ 1143. The board shall elect quadrennially a **book editor**, who shall have joint responsibility with the publisher for approving manuscripts considered for publication. He shall edit all the books of our publication, and the quarterly *Religion in Life*. In the case of materials authorized by the Curriculum Committee in the field of Christian education which are to be edited by the editor of church-school publications he shall collaborate with that editor whenever such collaboration is necessary or desired. He shall perform such other editorial duties as may be required of him by the board. He shall not have responsibility for materials issued by other boards and agencies of the church for program or promotional purposes.

SEC. V.

General Church Periodicals

¶ 1144. 1. The board is authorized to publish a periodical for pastors, and a periodical for the family which shall be a general magazine informative and vital to the religious life of all Methodists. The board may, at its discretion, issue such editions of the official periodicals as in its judgment may be deemed advisable.

2. The board shall elect quadrennially the **editors** of these general church periodicals and shall define their general responsibilities.

3. There shall be published *The Central Christian Advocate*, for service in the Central Jurisdiction. Its **editor**

shall be elected quadrennially from the Central Jurisdiction by the Board of Publication.

4. All other details relating to the publishing and distribution of these periodicals, not specifically delegated to the editors, shall be under the direction of the publisher.

5. The board shall have power to suspend or remove, after hearing, any editor or associate editor for misconduct or failure to perform the duties of his office.

SEC. VI. Church-School Publications

¶ 1145. There shall be an **editor of church-school publications**, elected as set forth in ¶ 1422.

¶ 1146. The editor of church-school publications shall be responsible for the preparation of all curriculum materials, as set forth in ¶ 1425.

¶ 1147. The curriculum of the church school shall be determined by the Curriculum Committee, which shall include in its membership the editor of church-school publications, the book editor, and the publisher, as set forth in ¶ 1426.

¶ 1148. The Board of Publication shall fix and pay the salaries of the editor of church-school publications and his assistants and shall have full financial responsibility for all other expenses connected with his work.

¶ 1149. The publications of the General Board of Education shall be manufactured, published, and distributed through The Methodist Publishing House. In matters involving financial responsibility the final determination in every case shall lie with the Board of Publication. After consultation with the publisher, the editor of church-school publications shall prepare a complete budget for his work, including salaries of assistants and office secretaries, and travel, to be effective when approved by the Board of Publication, and shall direct its operation from year to year.

¶ 1150. There shall be one complete co-ordinated system of literature published by The Methodist Publishing House for the entire Methodist Church. This literature is to be of such type and variety as to meet the needs of all groups of our people.

¶ 1151. The Board of Publication and the publisher shall have authority to decline to publish any item of literature when in their judgment the cost would be greater than should be borne by The Methodist Publishing House.

¶ 1152. The editor of church-school publications and the chairman of the Editorial Division of the General Board of Education shall have the right to sit with the Board of Publication for the consideration of matters pertaining to the joint interests of the Board of Publication and the Board of Education and shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote. (*See also* ¶ 1427.)

¶ 1153. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the promotional materials of the Division of Educational Institutions or of the Division of the Local Church.

SEC. VII. Printing for Church Agencies

¶ 1154. It is recommended that the general agencies and institutions of The Methodist Church have all their printing done by The Methodist Publishing House.

¶ 1155. All official statistical blanks, record forms, and record books required for use in The Methodist Church shall be printed and published by The Methodist Publishing House. (*See* ¶ 1120 § 6.)

SEC. VIII. Real Estate and Buildings

¶ 1156. The Methodist Publishing House shall not buy, sell, or exchange any real estate except by order of the General Conference, or, between sessions of the General Conference, by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board of Publication; nor shall the board authorize any new buildings or make any improvements, alterations, or repairs to existing buildings to cost in excess of \$100,000, except by order of the General Conference, or, between sessions of the General Conference, by a two-thirds vote of all members of the board. In either case, such vote shall be taken at a regular or called meeting of the board; and, if at a called meeting, the purpose of this meeting shall have been stated in the call. (*See* ¶¶ 1107, 1115 § 7 for additional requirements and restrictions.)

¶ 1157. The erection of a new building, or the im-

provement, alteration, or repair of an existing building, involving an expenditure of not more than \$100,000, may be authorized by the vote of a majority of the executive committee. These provisions shall not prevent the making of investments on mortgage security or the protection of the same, or the collection of claims and adjustments. (See ¶¶ 1107, 1115 § 7, 1156 for additional requirements and restrictions.)

CHAPTER V

INTERBOARD COMMISSION ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

¶ 1160. There shall be an **Interboard Commission on the Local Church**, whose function shall be to act as the co-ordinator of the policies and activities of its boards, namely: the Board of Missions through the General Section of the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, the Board of Education and its divisions, the Board of Evangelism, the Board of Lay Activities, and any other general agency for which the General Conference may hereafter provide a commission in the local church.

¶ 1161. The membership of the commission shall be composed of six members from each of the said boards, consisting of the chairman and five other persons from its executive committee elected by each board.

¶ 1162. The commission, in carrying out its function of co-ordinating the work of the boards which it represents, shall see that plans and programs relating to the local church and to higher education do not overlap or duplicate in activity and literature. Any questions of overlapping or duplication among the constituent boards which cannot be resolved by the Interboard Commission on the Local Church shall be referred to the Co-ordinating Council. Any overlapping of functions or duplication of activities between one of the constituent boards and another agency of The Methodist Church shall be referred to the Co-ordinating Council. (See ¶ 1115 § 1.) When in

the judgment of the commission such action would facilitate co-ordination among its boards, it may authorize interboard staff committees.

¶ 1163. Implementing the work of the commission there shall be a **secretarial council** consisting of the general secretaries of the divisions of the constituent boards, or of the boards themselves where there are no divisions. It shall be the function of this council to facilitate co-operation among the boards in the creative planning of programs and in avoiding overlapping of function or duplication of activity. The chairmanship of the secretarial council shall rotate annually among the several secretaries.

CHAPTER VI

BOARD OF MISSIONS

SECTION I. The Aim of Missions

¶ 1166. The supreme aim of missions is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all peoples in all lands as their divine Saviour, to persuade them to become his disciples, and to gather these disciples into Christian churches; to enlist them in the building of the Kingdom of God; to co-operate with these churches; to promote world Christian fellowship; and to bring to bear on all human life the spirit and principles of Christ.

SEC. II. Incorporation

¶ 1167. There shall be an incorporated **Board of Missions** of The Methodist Church, hereinafter called the board. It shall conduct its operations through three administrative divisions, each of which shall be incorporated. The board and its divisions shall be incorporated in such state or states as the board may select. Subject to the limitations hereinafter specified, each of the incorporated divisions shall be subject to the supervision and control of the board, and shall be under the direction and control of the General Conference of The Methodist

Church in all things not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States and of the states of incorporation.

¶ 1168. The board shall have control of all the work formerly controlled and administered by the following: the Board of Missions and Church Extension of The Methodist Church; the Missionary Society, the Board of Foreign Missions, the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the Woman's Home Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Service Guild, and the Ladies' Aid Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Board of Missions, including the Woman's Missionary Society, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, the Woman's Board of Home Missions, and the Woman's Missionary Council, and the Board of Church Extension³ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Board of Missions of the Methodist Protestant Church, and such other corporations or agencies of the General Conference as do similar work; but this list shall not be construed as exclusive.

SEC. III.

Constitution

¶ 1169. *Article 1. Name and Object.*—The name of this organization shall be the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church. Its objects are religious, philanthropic, and educational, designed to diffuse more generally the blessings of Christianity in every part of the world, by the promotion and support of all phases of missionary and church-extension activity in the United States and other countries; to promote missionary intelligence, interest, and zeal throughout The Methodist Church; and to aid in Christianizing personal life and the social order in all lands and among all peoples. Other agencies of The Methodist Church shall conduct work in foreign fields only with the consent of and in co-operation with the Board of Missions.

¶ 1170. *Art. 2. Authority.*—The board shall have authority to regulate its own proceedings in accordance with its constitution and charter; to buy, acquire, receive

³ See Judicial Council Decision 99.

by gift, devise, or bequest, property, real, personal, and mixed, and to hold, sell, and dispose of property; to secure, appropriate, and administer funds for its work; to sue and be sued; to elect the necessary officers and members of its staff, remove them for cause, and fill vacancies; to make by-laws in harmony with the Discipline of The Methodist Church and the charter of the board; and to administer its affairs through its respective divisions; and shall be clothed with the power and shall have the right to do any and all things which shall be authorized by its charter.

¶ 1171. *Art. 3. Board of Managers.*—The management and disposition of the affairs of the board, the making and administration of appropriations, and all other activities shall be vested in a **Board of Managers**.

¶ 1172. The Board of Managers shall be composed as follows:

1. Eighteen effective bishops of The Methodist Church resident in the United States, elected by the Council of Bishops; and in addition six bishops serving overseas, designated by the Council of Bishops, who shall have the status of members of the board in meetings which they may be able to attend, subject to such travel regulations as are provided in the Discipline for overseas bishops.

2. Members elected quadrennially by the Jurisdictional Conferences as follows: one minister and three lay members, two of whom shall be women, from each jurisdiction for each 600,000 members, or major fraction thereof, in the jurisdiction; *provided* that no jurisdiction, in addition to the bishops, shall have fewer than two ministers and six lay members, four of whom shall be women and two men. In nominating and electing such members, the Jurisdictional Conference shall have as a basis for choice the following: (a) one minister and one lay man designated by each Annual Conference of the jurisdiction, on nomination of its Conference Board of Missions; (b) six additional names nominated by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction; (c) twice the necessary number of lay women, designated by the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service from three members nominated by each Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service

of the jurisdiction. Vacancies among these members shall be filled by the bishops of the jurisdiction in which the vacancies occur *ad interim*, having regard to the various classifications of members.

3. Twenty-seven lay men, at least four from each jurisdiction, elected quadrennially by the board on nomination of the Council of Bishops, to serve as members at large of the board, and to be assigned as nearly equally as possible to the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions.

4. Twelve women, two from each jurisdiction, elected quadrennially by the board on nomination of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, to serve as members at large of the board and of this division.

5. Six youth members, twenty-three years of age or under at the time of their election, representing all jurisdictions and divided between youth and student groups, elected quadrennially by the board on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, which, in consultation with the appropriate staff of the board, shall have considered suggestions of nominations by Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships and state or regional units of the Methodist Student Movement. Vacancies shall be filled by the board on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth.

6. The chairman of the program area of Christian outreach of the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission.

¶ 1173. The term of office of all members whose election is provided for in ¶ 1172 shall begin, and the board shall organize, at a meeting to be held within ninety days after the adjournment of the last meeting of the several Jurisdictional Conferences held after the adjournment of the General Conference.

¶ 1174. The board shall elect quadrennially a president, who shall be the presiding officer, four vice-presidents (the nominees being the presidents of the three divisions and the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation), a recording secretary, and such other officers as it may need. Their duties shall be those usually performed by such

officers. The board may also elect annually such committees as may be necessary to carry on its business.

¶ 1175. The board shall elect quadrennially, on nomination of the respective divisions, a **general executive committee** of thirty-eight members: nine from the Division of World Missions, two of whom shall be women; nine from the Division of National Missions, two of whom shall be women; nine women from the Woman's Division of Christian Service; five women and five men from the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation; and the president of the board, who shall be chairman. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. This general executive committee shall exercise the powers of the board *ad interim*.

¶ 1176. *Art. 4. Duties.*—The duties of the board shall be:

1. To have the general oversight of the missionary and church-extension program of The Methodist Church, with special reference to its development and expansion.

2. To determine the broad lines of policy and program, and, through the respective divisions, to carry out the program.

3. To safeguard for each division the fullest measure of autonomy consistent with presenting a united front and a mutually supporting program.

4. To foster, as between the respective divisions, united fellowship, planning, and action.

5. On recommendation of the divisions, to determine fields to be occupied and the nature of the work to be undertaken; to secure, appropriate, and expend money for the support of all work under its care; to build and maintain churches, hospitals, homes, schools, parsonages, and other institutions of Christian service; and to enlist, train, and support the workers.

6. To elect, on nomination of the divisions, the executive officers of the respective divisions.

7. To receive and properly administer all properties and trust funds coming into the possession of the board as a board for missionary or other purposes, except as hereinafter provided.

8. To assist in the organization of and in the maintenance

nance of co-operative relations with the boards, committees, and other agencies of the General Conference; also with the Jurisdictional, Central and Annual Conference boards, committees, and agencies; likewise with interdenominational and other missionary agencies in the home and foreign fields.

9. To make a report of its activities during the quadrennium to the General Conference and the Jurisdictional Conferences.

¶ 1177. The board shall provide for the correlation and harmonization of the work of its various divisions, departments, and bureaus. It shall do any and all things consistent with its constitution and charter to accomplish the purpose of The Methodist Church in establishing missionary and church-extension work in home and foreign fields.

¶ 1178. *Art. 5. Divisions.*—1. The board shall conduct its activities through three administrative divisions—namely, a Division of World Missions, a Division of National Missions, and a Woman's Division of Christian Service—and a Joint Section of Education and Cultivation.

2. In constituting the membership of its divisions the board may elect from the membership of the Divisions of World Missions and National Missions, respectively, to the Woman's Division of Christian Service a number not to exceed the number of members which the Woman's Division of Christian Service has on the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions. (See ¶¶ 1195, 1210, 1240 § 3.)

¶ 1179. *Art. 6. General and Executive Secretaries.*—1. The board shall elect quadrennially one or more **general secretaries** each for the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions, two general secretaries (one man and one woman) for the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, and one or more **executive secretaries** for the Woman's Division of Christian Service, with such assistants as the needs of the work may require. Said secretaries shall be nominated by their respective divisions, and shall be elected by the board.

2. The general and executive secretaries shall be subject

to the direction of the board and of their respective divisions. On recommendation of the divisions their salaries shall be fixed and paid as the board may determine. They shall be employed exclusively in the work of the board, promoting its activities as the board may approve.

3. One general secretary from the Division of World Missions, two general or executive secretaries from the Division of National Missions, three executive secretaries from the Woman's Division of Christian Service, and two general secretaries from the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation shall be members of the board, but without vote. (See ¶ 1103.)

¶ 1180. 1. The board shall elect the **editors**, men and women, of its periodicals and literature in the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation on nomination of the joint section. They shall be subject to the direction of the board and of the joint section.

2. The board shall also elect such other secretaries, treasurers, directors of departments, and other officers, on nomination of the respective divisions and sections concerned, as the board may require.

¶ 1181. All officers, whether elected quadrennially or annually, shall retire on reaching the retirement age fixed by the board's pension plan.

¶ 1182. *Art. 7. Treasurers.*—The board shall elect quadrennially one of the divisions' treasurers as the **treasurer** of the board. He shall receive and handle general funds of the board not belonging to any one division and shall act as the legal financial representative of the board in matters affecting the board as a whole. It may also elect one or more assistant treasurers.

¶ 1183. The treasurer of the board and the treasurers of the divisions shall be responsible for receiving the funds of the board and of the respective divisions, holding the same in a safe depository and disbursing them according to the regulations of the board or the respective divisions on proper order. The board, on recommendation of the divisions, shall designate depositories for their funds. The treasurers shall also be charged with the responsibility of receiving and holding all trust funds, endowments, and securities of the board and the respec-

tive divisions and properly disbursing the returns therefrom according to the regulations of the board and the respective divisions, and shall further be responsible, under the direction of finance committees, for the investing of said trust funds, endowments, and other permanent funds, excepting such funds as shall be available for loans to churches to be administered by the secretary of church extension.

¶ 1184. All properties, trust funds, permanent funds, and other special funds and endowments now held and administered by the several organizations merging into the Board of Missions shall be carefully safeguarded and administered in the interest of those persons and causes for which said funds were established; *provided* that the properties, trust funds, and permanent endowment funds shall be transferred to the Board of Missions or its respective divisions from merging boards and societies and departments of such boards and societies only when such transfers may be made in accordance with the laws of the states where the several boards and societies are chartered and on the recommendation of the respective divisions and the approval of such boards and societies. Funds of the three administrative divisions, and their preceding corporations and societies, which are subject to appropriation shall be appropriated only on recommendation of the respective divisions and for the work for which the respective divisions are responsible.

¶ 1185. The income of the divisions of the board, exclusive of the Woman's Division of Christian Service (see ¶ 1250), shall be derived from apportionments, assessments, or askings distributed to jurisdictions, Annual Conferences, and pastoral charges by the budget-making agency of the General Conference in such manner as the General Conference may prescribe, and from church schools, gifts, donations, freewill offerings, annuities, bequests, specials, and other sources from which missionary and benevolence funds are usually derived, in harmony with the Discipline of The Methodist Church and actions of the General Conference.

¶ 1186. Askings shall be received from the fields, and budgets shall be prepared by the Division of World Mis-

sions and the Division of National Missions in such manner as the board may prescribe, consistent with its constitution and charter; and this combined budget shall be presented to the budget-making agency of the General Conference. In the allocation of funds to the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions the board shall recognize the principle of equal distribution, but only in so far as this provides an equitable basis of division.

¶ 1187. The board shall not appropriate for the regular maintenance of its work in any one year more money than was received by it for appropriation the previous fiscal year.

¶ 1188. The treasurers, assistant treasurers, and all employees of the board handling cash and securities shall be bonded by the board in such sum and on such conditions as the board may determine. Their books shall be audited at least annually by certified public accountants chosen by the board, and the report of the treasurers and auditors shall be presented to the board at each annual meeting.

¶ 1189. *Art. 8. Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel.*—There shall be a **Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel** of the several divisions of the board, which shall be responsible for the enlistment, cultivation, training, and recommendation of candidates for missionary service at home and abroad and deaconess service in the United States. This committee shall co-operate in the work of the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations (¶ 1415).

¶ 1190. *Art. 9. Missionaries.*—Standards and qualifications of missionary candidates for home and foreign service, including deaconesses, shall be determined by the board on the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel.

¶ 1191. A person shall be constituted a missionary and receive support as such from the funds of the board when such person has been commissioned by the board and has been assigned to some definite field. A person shall be constituted a deaconess when she has met the necessary requirements, including a period of probation,

and has been duly licensed, consecrated, and commissioned by a bishop. (See ¶ 1252.)

¶ 1192. 1. All missionaries who serve in fields outside the United States should relate themselves as directly as possible to the organized church in these fields through membership in a local church or Annual Conference.

2. In fields outside the United States the Annual Conference may seat in its session regularly appointed lay missionaries of the Board of Missions, and national heads of major institutions in such numbers and with such qualifications as the Central Conference may prescribe, and give them the privileges of the floor. Special-term ordained missionaries who retain their conference relations in the United States may be granted similar privileges.⁴ (See ¶ 623.)

SEC. IV. Division of World Missions

¶ 1193. *Article 1. Organization.*—Within the board there shall be a **Division of World Missions**, hereinafter called the division, which shall be one of the co-ordinate administrative divisions of the board.

¶ 1194. The division shall be incorporated as hereinbefore provided.

¶ 1195. The division shall be composed of board members as follows: one half of the bishops resident in the United States, one half of the bishops from overseas, one half of the ministers, one half of the lay men, one third of the lay women, and one third of the youth. (See ¶ 1178 § 2.) The division shall meet annually at the time of the meeting of the board, and at such other times as it may deem necessary.

¶ 1196. *Art. 2. Authority.*—The division shall have authority to make by-laws in harmony with the charter and constitution of the board and of its divisions; to regulate its own proceedings in harmony with its by-laws; to elect such officers as are to be elected by the division, to remove any of them for cause, and to fill vacancies among the officers so elected; to nominate such officers as are to be elected by the board, to recommend

their removal for cause, and to present nominations to the board to fill vacancies; to recommend fields of labor; to accept, train, and maintain workers; to buy and sell property; to secure and administer funds for the support of all work under its charge; to solicit and accept contributions subject to annuity under the board's regulations; and to recommend to the board appropriations for its work.

¶ 1197. The division shall administer and promote the work of missions outside the United States and its dependencies formerly administered by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the work outside of the United States of the Board of Missions, General Section, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Board of Missions of the Methodist Protestant Church, except such activities of the Woman's Convention of the Methodist Protestant Church, and shall have committed to it all the general foreign missionary activities of The Methodist Church in foreign fields.

¶ 1198. This division shall: (1) estimate the needs of the work under its care and present the same to the board for consideration and approval; (2) present to the board for appointment for its various fields of service missionaries who have been approved by the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel.

¶ 1199. 1. The division, in co-operation with the Department of Work in Foreign Fields of the Woman's Division, shall formulate plans and policies for the administration of foreign missions, shall consider lines of work, fields to be occupied, and various enterprises, and make recommendations to the board for approval.

2. There shall be an **Interdivision Committee on Foreign Work** with equal representation from the Division of World Missions and the Department of Work in Foreign Fields of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, which shall consider policies, programs, and estimates which come from Field Committees. (See ¶ 1202.) The committee shall make recommendations regarding correlation and co-ordination to the respective divisions.

⁴ Amended following Judicial Council Decisions 1, 24.

¶ 1200. This division shall recommend to the board for appropriation an emergency or contingent fund of not less than three per cent nor more than five per cent of the total amount appropriated for the division. This division shall not recommend to the board for appropriation, including the emergency fund, for a fiscal year more than the total amount received for this division from all sources during the preceding fiscal year.

¶ 1201. The division shall elect quadrennially a president, one or more vice-presidents, a treasurer or treasurers, and a recording secretary. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the division. The division shall also nominate for election by the board one or more general secretaries and such other secretaries and directors as the need may require. Such other officers as the division may need it shall elect. The division shall determine the powers and duties of its officers and staff and shall recommend their remuneration.

¶ 1202. *Art. 3. Foreign Field Committees and Estimates.*—In a foreign mission field of the board each Annual or Provisional Annual Conference shall have a **Field Committee**, composed of the presiding bishop and wherever possible an equal number of national and missionary members. The national membership, which should wherever possible be an equal number of men and women, shall be elected by the Annual Conference. The missionary membership, which should wherever possible be an equal number of men and women, shall be nominated by the missionaries within the bounds of the conference and approved by the Division of World Missions and the Woman's Division of Christian Service. On authorization by the Central Conference, the Annual or Provisional Annual Conference may add the district superintendents as ex officio members without vote. The duties of the committee shall be:

1. To elect its chairman and secretary; to forward its minutes promptly to the respective divisions of the board, and the report of its recommendations to the divisions for approval.

2. To study and co-ordinate the work of the Division

of World Missions and the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

3. To consult with the board through the respective divisions on all matters of mutual concern.

4. To receive and transmit to the board reports from all the institutions and agencies of the church which receive aid from the board.

5. To prepare estimates of funds requested from the board for aid to work in the Annual or Provisional Annual Conference and for aid to institutions and other projects; except the financial requirement for missionary support, which is the direct responsibility of the board.

¶ 1203. In a mission field where there is a Central Conference in which there is an executive board or council of co-operation constituted, the estimates for the maintenance and development of the work, prepared by the various Field Committees, shall be presented to the Division of World Missions and to the Woman's Division of Christian Service after approval by said executive board or council of co-operation. The estimates shall be presented, conference by conference, and by projects within the conference. These estimates shall be prepared and submitted separately for the two divisions in such form as may be required.

¶ 1204. In a Central or Provisional Central Conference where there is no executive board or council of co-operation, the estimates shall be sent direct to the Division of World Missions and to the Woman's Division of Christian Service from the Field Committee of each Annual or Provisional Annual Conference.

¶ 1205. Wherever desired by an affiliated autonomous Methodist church and the missionaries working in relation to such church, there shall be a joint council composed of members of the affiliated autonomous church and missionaries of the board working in that field, under a constitution approved by the board. This joint council shall be the agency through which the board shall co-operate with such affiliated autonomous church.

¶ 1206. *Art. 4. Administration of a Mission.*—1. Foreign fields outside of an Annual Conference working under the care of the Board of Missions, not having met the

requirements for the organization of a Provisional Annual Conference, may be organized into a **Mission**.

2. The Mission shall meet annually. It shall be composed of all regularly appointed missionaries, both lay and clerical, and mission traveling preachers, and other lay members. Each Mission shall determine the number of lay members and the mode of their appointment.

3. A bishop, or in his absence one of the superintendents chosen by ballot by the Mission, shall preside in the annual meeting. This meeting shall exercise in a general way the functions of a District Conference. It shall have power to license suitable persons to preach, and to pass on the character of preachers not members of an Annual Conference, to receive on trial mission traveling preachers, and to recommend to an Annual Conference proper persons for deacon's and elder's orders. The bishop or president shall at the annual meeting assign the missionaries and mission traveling preachers to the several charges for the ensuing year; *provided* that no missionary shall be transferred to or from a Mission without previous consultation with the board.

4. The work of a Mission shall be divided, when necessary, into districts, over each of which shall be placed a superintendent. It shall be the duty of the superintendent, in the absence of the bishop, to take general supervision of the work in his district with all its interests, and to report the state of that work and its needs to the bishop in charge and to the board.

5. For the consideration of financial and other matters relative to the policies of the board and the work of the missionaries, the missionaries of each Mission shall hold an annual **missionaries' meeting** and report their proceedings to the board. In the absence of a bishop one of the missionaries shall be elected by ballot to preside.

¶ 1207. *Art. 5. Missionaries of The Methodist Church Serving Other Churches.*—1. Missionaries of The Methodist Church, on action of the Board of Missions, may be assigned to serve in affiliated autonomous churches, independent churches, churches resulting from the union of Methodist churches and other communions, or in other evangelical denominations.

2. Such missionaries, while retaining their membership in their home local churches and Annual Conferences, and without impairing their relationship to the Board of Missions, shall, while on service in such fields, be free to accept such rights and privileges as may be offered to them by such churches.

3. The missionaries in such mission fields may be organized into mission councils under constitutions approved by the Board of Missions.

SEC. V. Division of National Missions

¶ 1208. *Article 1. Organization.*—Within the board there shall be a **Division of National Missions**, herein after called the division, which shall be one of the coordinate administrative divisions of the board.

¶ 1209. The division shall be incorporated as herein before provided.

¶ 1210. The division shall be composed of board members as follows: one half of the bishops resident in the United States, one half of the ministers, one half of the lay men, one third of the lay women, and one third of the youth. (*See* ¶ 1178 § 2.) The division shall meet annually at the time of the meeting of the board and at such other times as it may deem necessary.

¶ 1211. *Art. 2. Authority.*—The division shall have authority to make by-laws in harmony with the charter and constitution of the board and of its divisions; to regulate its own proceedings in harmony with its by-laws; to elect such officers as are to be elected by the division, to remove any of them for cause, and to fill vacancies among the officers so elected; to nominate such officers as are to be elected by the board, to recommend their removal for cause, and to present nominations to the board to fill vacancies; to recommend fields of labor; to accept, train, and maintain missionaries and special workers; to buy and sell property; to own and operate radio stations; to secure and administer funds for the support of all work under its charge; to solicit and accept contributions subject to annuity under the board's regulations; and to recommend to the board appropriations for its work.

§ 1212. *Art. 3. Officers.*—The division shall elect quadrennially a president, one or more vice-presidents, a treasurer or treasurers, and a recording secretary. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the division. The division shall also nominate for election by the board one or more general secretaries and such other secretaries and directors as the need may require. Such other officers as the division may need it shall elect. The division shall determine the powers and duties of its officers and staff and shall recommend their remuneration.

§ 1213. *Art. 4. Functions.*—The division shall have general supervision and administration of the work of missions and church extension in the United States of America (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) and the Dominican Republic; and administration of all donation aid, loan funds, and endowment contributed and established for the work of church extension, except such as may be administered by the Jurisdictional and Annual Conferences.

§ 1214. The division shall have two sections: Section of Home Missions and Section of Church Extension.

§ 1215. 1. The **Section of Home Missions** shall have the following departments, or such departments and administrative units as the board, on recommendation of the division, may determine:

- a) Department of City Work.
- b) Department of Town and Country Work.
- c) Department of Goodwill Industries.
- d) Department of Research and Survey.

All administrative units shall work in close co-operation with one another, particularly in any overlapping work.

2. The section shall give special study and promotion to mission work among minority language and ethnic groups and conduct such activities as the development of the work may require. It shall assign staff members to serve these special groups, who shall administer such appropriations as are committed to them for the work of the field to which they are assigned. They shall co-operate with other boards and agencies as their work may affect the group involved.

3. The division shall appoint, on nomination of the director concerned, fifteen members for each department or administrative unit, who shall be chosen from among the members of the division and others who are actively engaged in the work or administration of projects within the fields of the respective departments or administrative units.

4. Bilingual work in the United States, except in organized bilingual Provisional Annual Conferences and Missions, shall be administered through English-speaking Annual Conferences, under the joint supervision of the Division of National Missions and the district superintendents.

§ 1216. The general secretary or secretaries shall communicate to the bishops such information as he or they may possess concerning missions in their respective areas. He or they, or their representative, shall counsel with the bishops relative to missionary activities and needs; also, relative to the appointment of mission superintendents and special workers who are maintained by appropriations from missionary funds.

§ 1217. The **Department of City Work** shall promote missionary work in cities with a population of ten thousand or more. It shall aid in making studies in cities with special reference to the religious conditions of urban populations; the necessary location and adaptation of church buildings; and the programs required for needy and congested communities. It shall also aid in the organization and development of adequate religious centers in city territory. It shall administer such appropriations as may be committed to it by the division. All askings for missionary work in cities of ten thousand population or more shall require the review and recommendation of the department or its director.

§ 1218. The department shall promote the organization of **city or district missionary societies** wherever possible and practicable.

§ 1219. A city or district society may be organized in the interest of missions and church extension, under such name and control as it may determine, wherever, in the judgment of the bishop or bishops and district

superintendent or superintendents concerned, it is deemed advisable. The purpose of such a society is to promote evangelization and to co-ordinate the work of the church in such cities and contiguous communities. Charges in communities adjacent to a city, and not attached to a city, may be included in the society. All bishops, district superintendents, and superintendents of Missions or Provisional Annual Conferences having jurisdiction within the geographical territory covered by the society, and all pastors therein shall be ex officio members of said society or its board of managers. Each Quarterly Conference in the said territory shall be entitled to at least one lay representative in the society or board.

¶ 1220. The city or district society may include in its work the organization of church schools and the organization (but not the constituting) of churches, the aid of weak churches, the acquisition of real estate and the erection of buildings, the adaptation of downtown churches to their altered environment, the securing and holding of endowments for the city or district society and dependent churches, the conducting of missions among foreign-speaking and other needy peoples, the development of well-organized open-air evangelism, the maintenance of kindergartens and industrial schools, the promotion of social and settlement work, including services rendered in connection with juvenile court cases, the support of rescue missions and of institutions for the relief of the sick and the destitute.

¶ 1221. All city or district societies shall be auxiliary to the division, and shall make each year to the division a detailed statement which shall include: (1) number of ministers or missionaries supported in whole or in part, the amount paid to each, and the kind of work in which each is engaged; (2) expenses of administration; (3) the total amount raised by the society and how expended. The report shall also include such other items as the division shall require.

¶ 1222. A city or district society, in order to receive financial assistance from the division, shall meet the following conditions: (a) it shall be organized according to the Discipline; (b) it shall have an executive com-

mittee meeting at least once every quarter; (c) it shall be actively at work; (d) it shall have made a report as required by the division; (e) it shall endeavor to raise annually by collections or otherwise an amount at least equal to that appropriated to it by the board, exclusive of appropriations made for work among foreign-speaking peoples.

¶ 1223. The Annual Conferences are directed to take such friendly interest in the city or district societies within their bounds as shall promote their efficiency and facilitate their work, to arrange for the publication of their reports in the conference journal, and to provide a separate column in connection with the statement of the benevolence collections for the itemized report of the offerings for this work.

¶ 1224. In an Annual Conference where there exists a city or district society having an executive officer giving his entire time to the work, it is recommended that said executive officer shall be invited into consultation with the bishop and district superintendents in the consideration of the appointments that affect missions or churches administered or aided by said society.

¶ 1225. A city or district society shall have authority, in the territory covered by its constitution or charter, to make apportionments to the pastoral charges, and to collect and disburse moneys for all the objects contemplated in its organization.

¶ 1226. It shall be the duty of each pastor whose charge lies within the territory of a city or district society once each year to present the interests of the society to his congregation, take a collection for the same, or provide for the amount apportioned in the benevolence budget, and report the amount received to the Annual Conference.

¶ 1227. It is recommended that any local church within its territory expecting to receive aid from the city or district society for buildings or improvement be required to secure, as a condition to receiving such aid, the approval of the city or district society with respect to location, plans, and methods of financing.

¶ 1228. The Department of City Work, in co-operation

with the Council of Bishops and other interested groups, shall promote a quadrennial **Convocation on Urban Work**, which shall be called by the Council of Bishops at such time as the council and the department may determine.

¶ 1229. 1. The **Department of Town and Country Work** shall promote, in co-operation with other boards and agencies, all phases of the work of the church in rural territory and in places of less than ten thousand population; conduct surveys and research studies, and use the findings for more effective church work; administer funds committed to it by the division; develop a co-operative procedure among church and other agencies that seek to improve the economic, social, educational, and religious life of people in town and country areas; and promote among ministers and in colleges and theological schools a study of town and country life and effective ways and means of church and community work.

2. It shall give encouragement and support to Conference Boards of Missions, to Commissions on Town and Country Work, and to Jurisdictional Boards of Missions in their efforts to develop more effective and constructive work in town and country communities.

3. It shall administer such appropriations as may be committed to it by the division. All askings for missionary work in town or country (communities of less than ten thousand population) shall require the review and recommendation of the department or its director.

4. It shall recommend to responsible organizations, after a careful survey of the field, exchanges, mergers, or other co-operative plans to prevent denominational overlapping.

5. It shall seek to aid Annual Conferences and local churches in establishing Methodist families on the land and in town and country communities through making available information concerning procedures and resources for this purpose from private, governmental, and religious agencies.

6. It shall promote the organization of district missionary societies (¶¶ 1219-27) wherever possible and practicable.

7. In co-operation with the Council of Bishops and the Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, it shall

promote and administer a quadrennial **National Conference on Town and Country Work**, which shall be called by the Council of Bishops at such time as the council, the department, and the committee may determine.

¶ 1230. 1. There shall be an **Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work**, composed of six bishops composing a Committee on Town and Country Work of the Council of Bishops, whose chairman shall convene this committee early in the quadrennium, and representatives elected by agencies as follows: three from the Board of Missions, one of whom shall be from the Woman's Division of Christian Service; three from the General Board of Education; and one each from the Board of Evangelism, the Board of Lay Activities, and the Board of Social and Economic Relations. In addition, staff members of the participating agencies whose specific function is town and country work shall be ex officio members. The committee may invite other persons to meet with it as consultants. Expenses of members attending meetings shall be borne by the agencies which they represent. Expenses of the consultants shall be borne by the agency extending the invitation.

2. The members shall hold office for the quadrennium and/or until their successors are chosen.

3. The functions of the committee shall be: (a) to provide a means of co-operative planning among the participating agencies for the strengthening of town and country work in The Methodist Church; (b) to plan the quadrennial National Conference on Town and Country Work as provided in ¶ 1229 § 7; (c) to ascertain the phases of rural work the participating agencies propose to carry on and to give assistance in correlating the programs for a full service to town and country churches; (d) to prepare a clear statement on interdenominational co-operation with regard to allocation of new fields of work and to disposition of properties through federations, union churches, exchange of fields, withdrawals, and similar forms of co-operative work.

4. The committee shall organize by electing such officers and subcommittees as may be needed, and shall determine its frequency of meetings. It shall report annually to the

participating agencies and may make suggestions concerning work in town and country churches.

¶ 1231. 1. Each Annual Conference having town and country churches shall set up, under the direction of the bishop and his Cabinet, a Commission on Town and Country Work. The membership shall be the bishop and the district superintendents; the conference missionary secretary; the conference secretary of evangelism; the executive secretary of the Board of Education; the president of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service; a representative elected by each of the following conference agencies: the Board of Missions, the Board of Education, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, the Board of Lay Activities, the Board of Evangelism, the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and the Methodist Rural Fellowship; the members of the Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work and of the corresponding jurisdictional agency who reside within the conference; and one rural layman and one rural pastor from each district, nominated by the district superintendents or the nominating committee of the conference, and elected by the conference. The conference may add to the membership, on recommendation of the executive officers of the commission and on nomination by the district superintendents or the nominating committee of the conference, not to exceed five members at large, who may be either ministers or laymen especially interested in rural work. All special workers in the conference employed by The Methodist Church in rural communities shall be ex officio members of the commission, but without vote.

2. The commission shall be advisory to conference agencies and to the conference, and shall conduct surveys and research studies of rural conditions within the bounds of the conference, seek to develop a co-operative procedure between the church and social and governmental agencies, work to improve the status of the town and country church and pastor, seek to co-ordinate the work of the various boards and agencies, and outline a program of town and country work to be presented to the participating boards and agencies.

3. The commission shall be called together by the

bishop at the first session of the conference in each quadrennium for the purpose of organization and to determine its initial activities, procedures, and time of meeting. The co-operating agencies should share with the commission in determining and planning ways to secure the budget for the commission's work. Reports of all meetings shall be furnished to the secretaries of the co-operating agencies, and an annual report of findings and recommendations shall be presented to these agencies and to the conference.

4. The conference, on nomination of the commission, shall elect annually a **secretary of town and country work**, who shall be publicly assigned by the bishop and shall promote the policies and plans of the commission.

¶ 1232. The **Department of Goodwill Industries** shall provide for the religious, educational, social, and industrial welfare of the handicapped and unfortunate. It shall promote and establish Goodwill Industries in various centers; shall review missionary askings and administer appropriations for Goodwill Industries; shall endorse and assist only those local Goodwill Industries which are organized and conducted according to its standards, rules, and regulations; and shall urge them to co-operate with the departments, sections, divisions, and boards of The Methodist Church, and other organizations serving the handicapped and unfortunate. The department may conduct national and regional institutes, and such other special training activities as will help to develop the specialized leadership required for the direction of Goodwill Industries.

¶ 1233. The **Department of Research and Survey** shall conduct surveys and research studies in both cities and rural territories, giving attention to migrations of population, new and growing communities, changed neighborhoods, and religious conditions of racial and other groups. It shall co-operate with conference boards in making surveys. It may promote kindred activities on college and seminary campuses and within various areas of The Methodist Church. It may produce and circulate materials designed to aid administrators and pastors in conducting community self-studies and surveys.

¶ 1235. The **Section of Church Extension** shall conduct its work under the following provisions and regulations:

1. It shall encourage the erection of churches in communities not already adequately supplied, and shall assist in the building of churches, parsonages, and other mission buildings where assistance is most needed.

2. It shall give special attention to church architecture. Local churches seeking financial aid from the section shall submit preliminary sketches of their architectural plans and specifications to the section for approval before final working drawings are started. (See ¶ 1237.)

3. The division shall appropriate money for the various types of work in the field and the conduct of the work of the office. The section or such committee as it may designate shall recommend to the executive committee of the division what should be donated or loaned to each applicant and shall administer all donation aid, loan funds and endowments contributed and established for the work of church extension except such as may be administered by the Annual Conferences; and do such other business as may be legitimate and proper for it to do.

4. Aid in the form of donations in the erection, remodeling, and repairing of churches and parsonages shall be made available primarily to clearly missionary projects. Assistance in the development of other types of church property, if and when granted, shall be provided as loans. Priority shall be given to applications to provide churches for new communities.

5. All applications for aid from the section shall be made through the Conference Board of Missions. Grants shall be made by the division, its executive committee, or such other committee as the division may designate, on recommendation of the section and the secretary or secretaries.

6. In granting donations to churches and parsonages the division shall require from the trustees of each aided local church an obligation which shall be a lien on the property involved for the return of the amount donated in the event that the work shall cease or the property shall be alienated from The Methodist Church; *provided* that these provisions may be waived in cases involving dona-

tions of five hundred dollars or less. Said lien may be subordinated to enable the trustees of the church involved to give a first mortgage for a loan. In case of relocation the division's investment and lien may be transferred to the new property.

7. When a donation is granted by the division where the property involved is held in trust by the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference, no lien shall be required by the division, provided the trustees agree, with the approval of the Annual Conference, that the property shall not be conveyed without protecting the claim of the division.

8. The division or its constituent corporations shall raise and administer a loan fund and a revolving loan fund which shall be held separate from funds secured for general distribution. They shall consist of all money or other properties especially donated or bequeathed to the board or division or its constituent corporations as permanent funds, subject to annuity or otherwise, where the gift is intended to assist in the building and financing of churches and parsonages in the field of the Division of National Missions. These funds shall be used only as loans on adequate security or upon such terms as may be determined by the section.

9. It shall be lawful for the division to accept contributions to its funds from any person or persons capable of making the same, subject to annuity, payable to the persons making such donations, or other contractual beneficiaries; *provided* that in all cases the division or any of its constituent corporations shall conform to the laws of the state or states in which they are incorporated.

10. The requirement of the charter of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which states that "the aggregate of annuities that the board shall assume to pay shall never be allowed to exceed one half of the annual interest receivable on the loans made by said board," shall be binding and in effect on all annuities made by it.

11. The section shall have a Department of Finance and Field Service and a Department of Architecture as set forth in ¶¶ 1236-37.

¶ 1236. The section shall have a **Department of Finance and Field Service**. A fund may be set up by the section to be secured from gifts and legacies, and the income shall be used in supporting the work of this department. The purposes of this department shall be:

1. Raising funds for church, parsonage, and Christian educational buildings and equipment; for renovating, remodeling, and repair projects; and for other institutions and causes, such as conference pensions, schools of theology, Wesley Foundations, colleges, hospitals, and homes.

2. Raising funds for the retirement of church and other institution obligations. A nominal charge shall be made for fund-raising services.

3. Assisting and guiding churches in developing effective budget and other financial plans.

4. Providing counsel and suggesting plans for church building enterprises.

5. Providing construction supervision of mission church, parsonage, and school building projects.

¶ 1237. The section shall have a **Department of Architecture**. The purposes of the department shall be:

1. To prepare up-to-date church plans of a general nature in order to guide local churches in formulating a building program.

2. To distribute leaflets, folders, and booklets giving illustrations and descriptive material as a guide in development of wise, constructive programs for remodeling and enlarging existing buildings and planning for the erection of new ones.

3. To confer in the section offices with representatives from throughout the church concerning architectural problems and building procedures.

4. To review and criticize sketches which are submitted by local churches and District Boards of Church Location and Building, and assist them in avoiding architectural blunders, as to both design and floor plans. (See ¶¶ 180, 723.)

5. To visit local churches, on request and as the department is able, in order to furnish architectural counsel at the building site.

6. To consult with local architects who have been retained by local churches.

7. To furnish counsel in the preparation of plans for missionary projects which are constructed or supervised by the church builders on the staff of the Department of Finance and Field Service.

¶ 1238. *Administration of a Mission.*—1. In home fields outside of an Annual Conference, or among racial groups, work under the care of the Board of Missions not having met the requirements for the organization of a Provisional Annual Conference shall be administered by the board as a **Mission**.

2. The Mission shall meet annually, and shall be composed of all regularly appointed missionaries, both lay and clerical, and mission traveling preachers, and other lay members, the number of whom and the mode of their appointment each Mission shall determine for itself.

3. The bishop in charge of a Mission may appoint a superintendent of the Mission, or as many superintendents as may appear to him necessary or wise, for whom support has been provided. He shall determine the groups or charges over which the respective superintendents shall have supervision.

4. A bishop, or in his absence one of the superintendents chosen by ballot by the Mission, shall preside in the annual meeting. This meeting shall exercise in a general way the functions of a District Conference. It shall have power to license suitable persons to preach, and to pass on the character of preachers not members of an Annual Conference, to receive on trial mission traveling preachers, and to recommend to an Annual Conference proper persons for deacon's and elder's orders. The bishop or president shall at the annual meeting assign the missionaries and mission traveling preachers to the several charges for the ensuing year; *provided* that no missionary shall be transferred to or from a Mission without previous consultation with the board.

5. In case of a Mission using more than one language besides English, and extending over a wide geographical territory, the bishop may assemble in annual meetings the members of the Mission on a racial or geographical basis.

The Mission may delegate to such subgroups the work of examining and recommending to an Annual Conference candidates for admission on trial, under such limitations as the Discipline provides.

6. In Missions, examinations of local and traveling preachers shall be held by the Mission, and certified to an Annual Conference. The Missions also shall make recommendations for reception on trial in an Annual Conference.

¶ 1239. There shall be an **Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields** with equal representation from the Division of National Missions and the Department of Work in Home Fields of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, which shall co-ordinate and correlate plans and policies for home missions and arrange for such co-operative activities and joint projects as may be mutually acceptable. The committee shall make recommendations regarding correlation and co-ordination to the respective divisions.

SEC. VI. Woman's Division of Christian Service

¶ 1240. *Article 1. Organization.*—1. Within the board there shall be a **Woman's Division of Christian Service**, hereinafter called the division, which shall be one of the co-ordinate administrative divisions of the board.

2. The division shall be incorporated as hereinbefore provided.

3. The division shall be composed of board members as follows: all the women (¶ 1172 §§ 2, 4), one bishop from each jurisdiction, one half of the bishops from overseas, and one third of the youth. Additional members may be elected by the board from the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions as provided in ¶ 1178 § 2. The division shall hold a regular annual meeting and such other meetings as shall be called by the division or the executive committee.

4. The division shall include in its scope the interests and activities formerly promoted and administered by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the Woman's Home Missionary Society, the Wesleyan Service Guild, and the Ladies' Aid Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church;

the types of work and interests included in the Board of Missions, Section of Woman's Work, the Woman's Missionary Council, and former boards and societies (the Woman's Missionary Society, the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions, and the Woman's Board of Home Missions) of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; such activities of the Woman's Convention of the Methodist Protestant Church as logically fall within the organization; and all deaconess work of the uniting churches within the United States. All other organizations of women of similar purpose operating in the charges of the uniting churches may come under the scope of this division.

¶ 1241. *Art. 2. Authority.*—The division shall have authority to make by-laws in harmony with the charter and constitution of the board and of its divisions; to regulate its own proceedings in harmony with its by-laws; to elect such officers as are to be elected by the division, to remove any of them for cause, and to fill vacancies among the officers so elected; to nominate such officers as are to be elected by the board, to recommend their removal for cause, and to present nominations to the board to fill vacancies; to recommend fields of labor; to train and present to the board for appointment in its various fields of service missionaries and deaconesses who have been approved by the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel, and to maintain workers; to buy and sell property; to secure and administer funds for the support of all work under its charge; to solicit and accept contributions subject to annuity under the board's regulations; to recommend to the board appropriations for its work; to organize jurisdiction, conference, district, and local-church societies for adults, youth, and children as auxiliary to the division; and to recommend constitutions and by-laws for the same.

¶ 1242. *Art. 3. Purpose.*—The purpose of the division shall be to develop and maintain Christian work among women and children at home and abroad; to cultivate Christian family life; to enlist and organize the efforts of Christian women, youth, and children in behalf of native and foreign groups, needy childhood, and community welfare; to assist in the promotion of a missionary spirit

throughout the church; to select, train, and maintain Christian workers; to co-operate with the local church in its responsibilities; and to seek fellowship with Christian women of this and other lands in establishing a Christian social order around the world.

¶ 1243. *Art. 4. Officers.*—The division shall elect quadrennially a president, one or more vice-presidents, a treasurer or treasurers, and a recording secretary. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the division. The division shall also nominate for election by the board one or more **executive secretaries** and such other secretaries and staff as the need may require. Such other officers as the division may need it shall elect. The division shall determine the powers and duties of its officers and staff and shall recommend their remuneration.

¶ 1244. 1. The division shall be organized into three departments:

- a) Department of Work in Foreign Fields.
- b) Department of Work in Home Fields.
- c) Department of Christian Social Relations.

2. There shall be such committees and other organizational units as shall best promote its interests. The functions of these, other than as hereinafter determined, shall be defined by the division.

3. The division shall elect chairmen for the respective departments, who shall be vice-presidents of the division.

4. There shall be an executive secretary or secretaries in each department. The number and duties of such secretaries shall be determined and defined by the division.

¶ 1245. The **Department of Work in Foreign Fields** shall administer and promote the work of missions outside the United States of America and the Dominican Republic.

1. There shall be a **standing committee** composed of the chairman, the executive secretaries, and the associate and/or assistant secretaries of the department; the jurisdiction secretaries of missionary service in foreign fields; and such members of the division as may be appointed by the department.

2. There shall be an Interdivision Committee on Foreign Work. (See ¶ 1199 § 2.)

¶ 1246. The legislation included under ¶¶ 1202-7 applies also to the work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service: (a) foreign Field Committees and estimates (¶¶ 1202-5); (b) administration of a Mission (¶ 1206); (c) missionaries of The Methodist Church serving other churches (¶ 1207).

¶ 1247. The **Department of Work in Home Fields** shall administer and promote the work of missions within the United States of America and the Dominican Republic.

1. There shall be a **standing committee** composed of the chairman, the executive secretaries, and the associate and/or assistant secretaries of the department; the jurisdiction secretaries of missionary service in home fields; and such members of the division as may be appointed by the department.

2. There shall be an Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields. (See ¶ 1239.)

3. There shall be a consultative interboard staff committee with the Board of Hospitals and Homes. (See ¶ 1567.)

4. There shall be a Committee on Co-operation and Counsel with the Board of Education. (See ¶ 1360.)

5. In the Department of Work in Home Fields there shall be a Commission on Deaconess Work. (See ¶ 1252.)

¶ 1248. The **Department of Christian Social Relations** shall promote the work of the division along the lines of community service and social relations.

1. It shall seek to make real and effective the teachings of Jesus as applied to individual, group, racial, and world relationships. It shall endeavor to enlist the participation of church women in such questions as have a moral or religious significance or an important bearing on public welfare.

2. It shall seek to co-operate with other agencies of the church having similar purposes, endeavoring to develop Christian fellowship and to deepen concern for the total responsibility of the church.

3. There shall be a **standing committee** composed of the secretaries and chairman of the department, the chairmen of the committees, the jurisdiction secretaries of

Christian social relations, and such other persons as the division may provide on recommendation of the department.

¶ 1249. 1. The division shall be empowered to create such committees as the work may demand. There shall be an **executive committee**, a **Section of Education and Cultivation**, a **Committee on Missionary Personnel**, a **Committee on Permanent Funds and Investments**, a **Committee on Finance and Estimates**. There shall also be a standing **Committee on the World Federation of Methodist Women**.

2. The cultivation and promotion of the work of the division and its auxiliary organizations shall be under the direction of the division; the plans and policies for the same shall be carried out by the woman secretary or secretaries of the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation.

3. The division, working through the Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, is authorized to cooperate in the missionary education of young women, girls, and children in accordance with plans to be determined by the Board of Missions and the Board of Education.

¶ 1250. The funds for the maintenance of the work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service shall be derived from annual pledges or dues, special memberships, devises, bequests, annuities, special offerings, gifts, and moneys raised by special projects or collected in meetings held in the interest of the work of the division; *provided* that the funds thus raised shall be appropriated to the work established by the several uniting organizations composing the division, or work hereafter to be entered on by the division. All funds, except those designated for local purposes, shall be forwarded through the regular channels of the Woman's Societies of Christian Service to the treasurer of the division. All undesignated funds shall be allocated by the division on recommendation of its Committee on Finance and Estimates on a definite percentage basis to the work of the several departments of the division.

¶ 1251. There shall be a delegated body termed the

Assembly, which shall meet at such time and place as the division may determine. The purpose of the Assembly shall be to promote and deepen interest in the work of the division. The division shall determine the composition, functions, and power of the Assembly.

¶ 1252. 1. The office of **deaconess** is hereby authorized in The Methodist Church. A deaconess is a woman who has been led by the Holy Spirit to devote herself to Christ-like service under the direction of the Church, and who, having met the requirements prescribed by the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel of the Board of Missions, including a period of not less than one year of probation, has been duly licensed, consecrated, and commissioned by a bishop. (See ¶¶ 1189-91.) This office entitles a woman to serve The Methodist Church through any of its agencies in any capacity not requiring full clergy rights.

a) All deaconess work in the United States and its dependencies shall be under the supervision of the **Commission on Deaconess Work** of the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

b) All deaconess work outside of the United States and its dependencies shall be under the supervision of the Central Conferences or Provisional Central Conferences concerned, or the Annual Conferences where there is not a Central Conference.

c) There shall be an **executive secretary**, who shall be nominated by the commission in consultation with the Woman's Division of Christian Service and elected by the Board of Missions.

2. All properties, trust funds, permanent funds, other special funds, and endowments now held and administered by or for the several forms of administration of deaconess work under the uniting churches shall be carefully safeguarded and administered by the several forms of administration in the interest of those persons and causes for which said funds were established.

3. The commission shall be composed of one bishop chosen by the Council of Bishops; four persons from each jurisdiction chosen by the Jurisdiction Deaconess Association, two of whom shall be deaconess members of the association, one a minister of the jurisdiction, and one

the president of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service; three representatives of the Woman's Division of Christian Service chosen by the division; one representative of the Board of Pensions; one representative of the Board of Hospitals and Homes; one representative of the Board of Education; the executive secretary of the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations; and one staff representative of the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel. The executive secretary of the Commission on Deaconess Work shall be a member without vote. (See ¶ 1103.)

4. The duties of the commission shall be:

a) To recommend to the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel standards and procedures for enlisting and training young women for deaconess work in The Methodist Church.

b) To establish minimum salary standards for deaconesses.

c) To receive and act on recommendations from Conference Deaconess Boards, Jurisdiction Deaconess Associations, and other agencies.

d) Other duties in harmony with the constitution, as may be set forth in the by-laws of the commission.

5. The commission shall meet annually. Its officers shall be elected quadrennially.

6. There shall be an **executive committee**. Such other committees may be constituted as are necessary for carrying out the duties of the commission.

7. A deaconess shall receive her appointment through the regular channels of the Commission on Deaconess Work and the Conference Deaconess Board.

8. A sabbatical leave for a definite period of time, not exceeding a year, to be spent in special study, may be granted with full or part salary on recommendation of the executive secretary of the Commission on Deaconess Work and the Conference Deaconess Board. Pension credit shall be granted for such sabbatical leave. All agencies employing deaconesses shall be encouraged to make an annual payment into the commission fund for sabbatical leave.

9. a) There shall be a contributory pension plan for all deaconesses commissioned on or after July 24, 1940.

b) For deaconesses commissioned or consecrated previous to July, 1940, former agreements are continued, and the administrations with which they were connected are responsible for the pensions.

c) A deaconess employed by an agency having its own pension plan shall participate in that plan during her term of service with that agency.

10. A deaconess may be granted a leave of absence, not to exceed three years, for health reasons, study, or necessary home duties, with the privilege of continuing her participation in the pension plan. If an extension of leave is granted by the Commission on Deaconess Work, participation in the pension plan for additional years on leave shall not be permitted. A deaconess on leave of absence shall be a member of the Quarterly Conference (¶ 138) and the Conference Deaconess Board where she places her church membership while on leave.

11. A deaconess shall surrender her credentials when she is no longer available for an appointment in The Methodist Church.

12. A person may be reinstated as a deaconess on recommendation of the Conference Deaconess Board and the Commission on Deaconess Work and approval by the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel.

¶ 1253. 1. In each jurisdiction there shall be a **Jurisdiction Deaconess Association**.

2. a) All active deaconesses working within the bounds of the jurisdiction shall be members of the association.

b) All deaconesses in the retired relation shall be honorary members of the association.

c) Other members shall be the president of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, the jurisdiction secretary of missionary service in home fields, and the president of each Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service within the jurisdiction.

3. There shall be a meeting of the association held annually or biennially in connection with the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service.

4. The association shall elect its officers.

5. There shall be an executive committee in the association.

6. The duties of the association shall be:

a) To promote deaconess work as authorized by the Commission on Deaconess Work.

b) To arrange workers' conferences.

c) To provide opportunities for fellowship among workers in the jurisdiction.

d) Other duties in harmony with the constitution, as may be set forth in by-laws.

¶ 1254. 1. In each Annual Conference there shall be a **Conference Deaconess Board**.

2. The purpose of the board shall be to create and maintain interest in deaconess work, to establish and interpret deaconess relationships to the Annual Conference, and to co-operate with the Commission on Deaconess Work in forming policies and making recommendations regarding deaconess work.

3. The board shall be composed of all active deaconesses serving within the bounds of the conference; the members of the Cabinet; pastors of local churches employing deaconesses; four representatives of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service; one representative from the Commission on Christian Vocations; and one representative, not a deaconess, from the local board of managers or committee of each project within the conference where deaconesses live or are employed. Retired deaconesses living within the bounds of the conference shall be honorary members, having the privilege of the floor without vote.

4. The duties of the board shall be:

a) To review, evaluate, and report annually to the Commission on Deaconess Work the standing of all deaconesses within the conference.

b) To study credentials received from Quarterly Conferences (¶ 146 § 2) and recommend to the Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel possible candidates for the office of deaconess.

c) To co-operate with the Commission on Deaconess Work in the annual appointments of deaconesses. It shall submit the list of appointments to be read by the bishop

presiding at the Annual Conference, and to be printed in the journal.

d) To arrange for the licensing and the consecration service of those deaconesses assigned to the conference for these purposes.

e) In co-operation with the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service and other agencies of the church, to initiate and develop plans for the promotion of deaconess work, including an annual program on deaconess work.

f) To consider complaints and charges against deaconesses; to act as a trial court in case of trial; and to make recommendations to the Commission on Deaconess Work.

5. The board shall meet annually and elect its officers.

6. There shall be an executive committee and other committees as are necessary for carrying out the duties of the board.

7. The board shall report annually to the Annual Conference, the Jurisdiction Deaconess Association, and the Commission on Deaconess Work. Its report shall be printed in the journal of the Annual Conference.

¶ 1255. Constitution of the **Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service**:

Article 1. Name.—There shall be in each jurisdiction a Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service auxiliary to the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions. This shall include the Wesleyan Service Guild for employed women.

Art. 2. Function or Authority.—Each jurisdiction society shall have authority to promote its work in accordance with the program and policy of the division. It shall also recommend to the division such plans and policies as will make the work within the jurisdiction more effective.

Art. 3. Membership.—The jurisdiction society shall be composed of its officers and six delegates from each Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service within the jurisdiction, three of whom shall be conference officers; all the women members of the Jurisdictional Board of Missions and any members of the Woman's Division of

Christian Service living within the jurisdiction; a representative of the Jurisdiction Deaconess Association; all the bishops of the jurisdiction; and such other persons as the society may determine.

Art. 4. Officers.—Each jurisdiction society shall elect a president, one or more vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a treasurer, a secretary of missionary service in foreign fields, a secretary of missionary service in home fields, a secretary of Christian social relations, a secretary of promotion, a secretary of missionary education, a secretary of Wesleyan Service Guild, a secretary of student work, a secretary of youth work, a secretary of children's work, a secretary of literature and publications, a secretary of supply work, a secretary of spiritual life, a secretary of status of women, a secretary of missionary personnel. Other officers and secretaries may be elected and such committees appointed as the work may demand in accordance with the plans of the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

Art. 5. Elections.—Officers shall be elected at the first meeting of the society following the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference, for a term of four years, with the privilege of re-election for one additional term in the same office. This term of office applies to all officers. For an officer elected during a quadrennium, the period to be served shall be considered the first term, thus giving the privilege of re-election for one additional term in the same office.

Art. 6. Meetings.—Each jurisdiction society shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 7. Amendments.—Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be sent to the recording secretary of the Woman's Division of Christian Service at least forty days before the last annual meeting of the division in the quadrennium.

¶ 1256. Constitution of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service:

Article 1. Name.—In each Annual Conference there shall be organized a Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service auxiliary to the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of

Christian Service and to the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions. This shall include the Wesleyan Service Guild for employed women.

Art. 2. Purpose.—The purpose of the conference society shall be to plan and direct the work of the society within the conference in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the division.

Art. 3. Membership and Officers.—The conference society shall be composed of representatives from societies in the local churches, the number to be determined by each conference according to its requirements; such district officers as the conference society may determine, from each district; all chairmen of conference standing committees; officers or members of the Woman's Division of Christian Service or of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service residing within the bounds of the conference; and the following conference officers: a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, a treasurer, a secretary of promotion, a secretary of the Wesleyan Service Guild, a secretary of student work, a secretary of youth work, a secretary of children's work, a secretary of missionary education, a secretary of Christian social relations, a secretary of literature and publications, a secretary of supply work, a secretary of spiritual life, a secretary of status of women, a secretary of missionary personnel, and such other secretaries of lines of work as may be required.

Art. 4. Annual Conference Relationships.—The president of the conference society shall be seated in the Annual Conference, but without the right to vote unless she is otherwise a member of the conference.

Art. 5. Meetings.—There shall be an annual meeting of the society when reports shall be received from the conference officers and from the districts. Officers shall be elected, the necessary business transacted, and pledges made for the year. There shall be a program of inspiration and information in harmony with the plans and projects of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

Art. 6. Elections.—At the last annual meeting of the quadrennium the society shall: (a) elect, according to

the instructions in ¶ 1255 § 3, six women from the conference, three of whom shall be conference officers, for membership in the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service; and (b) nominate three women for membership on the General Board of Missions, the names to be sent to the jurisdiction society according to the instructions in ¶ 1172 § 2c. At the annual meeting of the society preceding the Assembly (¶ 1251), delegates to the Assembly shall be elected in accordance with the stated membership.

Art. 7. Amendments.—Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be sent to the recording secretary of the Woman's Division of Christian Service at least forty days before the last annual meeting of the division in the quadrennium.

¶ 1257. Constitution of the District Woman's Society of Christian Service:

Article 1. Name.—There may be a District Woman's Society of Christian Service auxiliary to the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service. This shall include the Wesleyan Service Guild for employed women.

Art. 2. Purpose.—The purpose of the district society shall be to unite all the societies within the district in an earnest effort for the promotion of the work of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Art. 3. Membership.—All members of Woman's Societies of Christian Service in the local churches of a district shall be considered members of the district society.

Art. 4. District Officers.—The officers of the district society shall be a president, a secretary of promotion, a recording secretary, and such other officers as will best develop and promote the interests of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the district. The district president, secretary of promotion, and such other district officers as the conference society may determine shall be members of the conference executive committee.

Art. 5. Meetings.—There shall be an annual meeting of the district society, when reports shall be received from the societies in the district, officers elected, necessary business transacted, pledges made by the societies, and a program of inspiration and information given along the

lines of work of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Art. 6. Amendments.—Proposed amendments to this constitution shall be sent to the recording secretary of the Woman's Division of Christian Service at least forty days before the last annual meeting of the division in the quadrennium.

¶ 1258. There shall be a Woman's Society of Christian Service in the local church, auxiliary to the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service. *See* ¶ 282 under Part II, The Local Church.

SEC. VII. Joint Section of Education and Cultivation

¶ 1268. The Joint Section of Education and Cultivation shall undergird with education and cultivation the total program of the Board of Missions. It shall be composed of six bishops, one from each jurisdiction; six men and two women from the Division of World Missions, elected by that division; six men and two women from the Division of National Missions, elected by that division; eight women from the Woman's Division of Christian Service, one of whom shall be the president of the division, elected by that division. In all these selections there must be due regard to equitable representation from the jurisdictions.

¶ 1269. The joint section shall elect quadrennially a president, one or more vice-presidents, and a recording secretary. It shall also nominate, for election by the board, two general secretaries (one man and one woman) and other secretaries, directors, a treasurer, who shall be the director of one of its departments, and such other officers as it may determine. The treasurer of the Woman's Division of Christian Service shall be treasurer of the Woman's Section. Vacancies shall be filled by the same procedure. The joint section shall determine the powers and duties of its officers and staff and shall recommend the remuneration of its employed officers and workers.

¶ 1270. There shall be an annual meeting of the joint section, and it may meet at such other times as the chairman may designate.

¶ 1271. The joint section shall edit, publish, sell, and

circulate books, literature, and periodicals for the work of the board and shall be responsible for editing and preparing the same. It shall co-operate with the Board of Education and all agencies of The Methodist Church and with interdenominational agencies in the preparation and distribution of missionary literature.

¶ 1272. The joint section shall promote missionary councils, conventions, institutes, an annual **Week of Prayer**, and other meetings throughout the church for the purpose of developing a missionary spirit, spreading missionary information, and acquainting the church with the plans and policies of the board. It shall seek the co-operation of Jurisdictional and Annual Conferences, district superintendents, pastors, missionary societies, and other agencies of the church.

¶ 1273. The joint section shall have charge of all plans for cultivating missionary giving and for promoting the missionary program of the church; *provided*, however, that all such plans shall be subject to and in harmony with the general financial system of The Methodist Church as adopted by the General Conference.

¶ 1274. The joint section shall co-operate with the Inter-board Committee on Missionary Education.

¶ 1275. The joint section shall co-operate with schools of theology and departments of missions in the conduct of missionary institutes in such institutions, and shall develop other plans for affording missionary information and inspiration to students.

¶ 1276. 1. The secretaries, directors, and editors of the General Section of the joint section shall carry out the plans and policies of the Division of World Missions and the Division of National Missions in the promotion of missionary education in all the age groups of the church school, in co-operation with the Board of Education, and in creating, editing, and publishing such periodicals, books, and leaflets for the local congregations, the districts, and the Annual Conferences as the work of the general divisions may necessitate.

2. The secretaries and editors of the Woman's Section of the joint section shall carry out the plans and policies of the Woman's Division of Christian Service for the vari-

ous age groups, including the promotion of organizations for women in local churches, districts, conferences, and jurisdictions; in providing missionary education for children, youth, students, and women; in creating, editing, and publishing such periodicals, books, and leaflets as the work may necessitate. The joint section shall give guidance in those local-church activities that will strengthen the total life and work of the local church, and shall co-operate in all plans necessary for the efficiency of the Woman's Societies of Christian Service in the jurisdictions, conferences, districts, and local churches.

¶ 1277. The funds for the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation shall be appropriated by the board.

SEC. VIII.

Councils

¶ 1280. *Article 1. Secretarial Council.*—There shall be a **secretarial council**, composed of one general secretary and the treasurer from the Division of World Missions; one general secretary and the treasurer from the Division of National Missions; two general secretaries from the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation; one executive secretary each from the Department of Work in Foreign Fields, the Department of Work in Home Fields, and the Department of Christian Social Relations, and the treasurer from the Woman's Division of Christian Service; these persons to be designated quadrennially by the divisions. The council shall elect its own chairman annually from the divisions in rotation, and shall have regular meetings at such time and place as the council or the board may determine. It shall be the duty of this council to make recommendations to the board or to the divisions on matters which concern the board as a whole, to have general supervision of joint services of the board and the several divisions, and to prepare items of business and to carry out such arrangements for board and committee meetings as may be required.

¶ 1281. *Art. 2. Missionary Councils.*—1. There may be a **General Missionary Council**, composed of the members of the board and the secretaries, associate and assistant secretaries, treasurers, directors, superintendents, and other members of the full-time employed staff of the

Board of Missions, Jurisdictional Boards of Missions, and Conference Boards of Missions, and conference missionary secretaries, presidents, and other representatives of the Conference Boards of Missions. Meetings of this council may be held, at such times and places as the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation or the council itself may determine, for the consideration of any or all matters relating to missions and church extension and for the dissemination of missionary information and inspiration throughout the church.

2. There may be a **Jurisdictional Missionary Council** held within each jurisdiction at such times and places as the Jurisdictional Board of Missions may determine in consultation with the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation and in harmony with its plans.

SEC. IX. Co-operation with Other Boards and Agencies

¶ 1283. For the purpose of more effectively promoting Christian education outside the United States there shall be a **Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields**, composed of twenty-eight members. Fourteen shall be from the Board of Education, as follows: four members of the board; the general secretary and seven additional staff members elected by the Division of the Local Church; and the general secretary and one additional staff member elected by the Editorial Division. Fourteen shall be from the Board of Missions, as follows: four members of the board, two elected by the Division of World Missions, and two by the Woman's Division of Christian Service; five secretaries elected by the Division of World Missions; and five secretaries of the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

¶ 1284. There may be an **executive secretary** of the committee, who shall be secretary of the Board of Missions for Christian education in countries outside the United States. The secretary shall be elected by the Board of Missions on nomination of the committee.

¶ 1285. 1. The committee shall meet annually and at such other times as it shall determine, and shall report its

actions to the Boards of Education and of Missions at their annual meetings.

2. It shall have a budget for its work provided by the two boards. The major responsibility for the budget rests on the Board of Missions, supplemented by support from the Board of Education, in which the Methodist Youth Fund shall have a part.

¶ 1286. For the purpose of promoting effective co-operation between the Board of Missions and the Board of Education in missionary education there shall be an **Interboard Committee on Missionary Education**, composed of the general secretaries of the three divisions of the Board of Education and five other persons appointed by that board; and an equal number from the Board of Missions, which shall consist of two secretaries each from the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation and the three administrative divisions. The committee shall provide for age-group subcommittees and such other subcommittees as may be needed. This committee and its subcommittees shall be advisory and creative in character. The promotion of plans and materials created by this committee shall be a responsibility of the Board of Education and of the Board of Missions.

¶ 1287. The duties of this committee shall be: (a) to develop a unified program of missionary education for all age groups in the local church and in the colleges, universities, and theological seminaries; (b) to co-operate with the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education in providing missionary information for church-school literature and in the planning and preparation of curriculum materials on missions; (c) to co-operate in the publication of books for missionary education in the church; (d) to develop co-operative plans for the missionary education and missionary giving of children, youth, and adults; and (e) to report annually to the Board of Missions and to the Board of Education. The committee shall meet annually, and at such other times as it may determine.

¶ 1288. There shall be an **executive secretary** of the committee, who shall be elected quadrennially by the Board of Education, on nomination of the committee, and

shall be confirmed by the Board of Missions. He shall be the secretary for missionary education of the Board of Education with staff relationship to the Division of the Local Church. He shall likewise be the secretary for missionary education of the Board of Missions, having staff relationship to the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation. The committee shall have a budget provided for its work by the two boards on such ratio as they may decide. In missionary education the executive secretary and the members of the staff shall be the representatives equally of the Board of Missions and of the Board of Education. During the period between the General Conference and the organization of the new committee for the coming quadrennium, the staff and those members who have served on the committee during the past quadrennium shall continue to function until the new committee is organized.

¶ 1289. There shall be an **Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas**, composed of five members from the Division of National Missions of the Board of Missions and three members each from the Division of the Local Church of the Board of Education, the Board of Lay Activities, the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions, and the Board of Evangelism elected by their respective divisions and boards, and five members from the church at large elected by the Council of Bishops. The committee may co-opt appropriate staff members of the above-named agencies. This committee is authorized and directed:

1. To study neglected metropolitan and rural areas.
2. To develop and promote plans to (a) organize new churches and church schools, (b) organize and seek support for mission churches and missions, (c) revive and support dying and abandoned churches, and (d) arrange by mutual agreement for ministering to and serving these churches, missions, and church schools.
3. To devise methods and procedures for enlisting local churches and lay men and women in support of the foregoing activities with their means and services.
4. To take other steps which the committee may deem

appropriate to provide for ministry to such neglected areas and peoples.

¶ 1290. The Board of Missions is authorized to appoint not more than fifteen representatives to a **Joint Commission on Co-operation and Counsel**, with like representation from the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, for study and consideration of the problems involved. This committee shall include co-opted members from other boards having co-operative relations with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

SEC. X.

Jurisdictional Boards

¶ 1291. The Constitution gives the Jurisdictional Conference authority "to establish and constitute Jurisdictional Conference boards as auxiliary to the general boards of the church as the need may appear." However, in the interest of uniformity in the several jurisdictions, it is suggested that the Jurisdictional Conferences give serious consideration to the following: A **Jurisdictional Board of Missions** shall be composed of the effective bishops of the jurisdiction, the members of the General Board of Missions residing within the jurisdiction, the president of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, and the following representatives from each Annual Conference in the jurisdiction: one district superintendent, selected by the Cabinet; the chairman of the Conference Board of Missions; the conference missionary secretary; the president of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service; the conference lay leader; one young man and one young woman, one of whom shall be the chairman of the program area of Christian outreach of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship.

¶ 1292. At the first meeting after the Jurisdictional Conference, the board shall organize and elect the necessary officers. It may also elect a secretary, to be confirmed by the General Board of Missions, who shall promote the policies and plans of the general board and be its representative in the jurisdiction. The secretary shall co-operate with the representative of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service in matters of common

interest. The board shall meet annually, at such time and place as it may determine.

¶ 1293. The board shall promote the entire program of the general board, in harmony with the general plans of the church, and perform such other duties as the Jurisdictional Conference shall determine.

¶ 1294. The budget for the annual meeting and promotional work of the board shall be presented annually to the general board and, when approved, shall be provided by the general board.

SEC. XI. Annual Conference Boards

¶ 1295. The **Conference Board of Missions** shall be auxiliary to the general board and the jurisdictional board, and shall be composed of the following members, elected quadrennially: one or more lay members from each district, and an equal number of ministers; five members at large, nominated by the conference nominating committee and elected quadrennially by the conference; two young men and two young women, nominated by the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship and elected annually by the conference; the conference missionary secretary, the conference lay leader, the conference secretary of evangelism, the president of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, the chairman of the Commission on Town and Country Work, the chairman of the Commission on Minimum Salaries, and any members of the general board residing within the bounds of the conference. The district superintendents, district missionary secretaries, and presidents and full-time executives of city or district missionary societies may be members of the board, at the discretion of the conference.

¶ 1296. 1. The board shall elect its own officers, and hold its annual meeting at the call of the president, or any three members, on due notice. The transactions of the year shall be reported by the president to the Annual Conference, and a detailed statement of all disbursements of missionary and church-extension aid within the conference shall be printed in the conference journal.

2. It may hold a midyear meeting, at which time necessary business may be transacted and open meetings

planned for a general and public discussion of all matters pertaining to home and foreign missions and church extension.

¶ 1297. The officers and three additional members elected by the board shall constitute an **executive committee**. The executive committee shall exercise the powers of the board *ad interim*.

¶ 1298. The board shall make nominations in accordance with ¶ 1172 for membership on the general board.

¶ 1299. The board shall co-operate with the general board, especially with the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, in carrying out the policies and promoting all phases of the work of missions and church extension.

¶ 1300. There shall be held annually in each district a **District Missionary Institute** for promotional and educational purposes in the interest of the work of the Board of Missions. The Joint Section of Education and Cultivation shall co-operate with the district superintendent and conference and district missionary secretaries, together with the conference secretaries of promotion and missionary education of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, in building the program for this institute. The institute shall be promoted by the district superintendent in co-operation with the district missionary secretary and the district secretaries of promotion and missionary education of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. It shall deal with the causes, plans, and program of the Board of Missions and the circulation of periodical and other literature. Speakers provided by the general and jurisdictional boards may be used for the program.

¶ 1301. The board shall co-operate with the Annual Conference program committee in arranging for a **missions anniversary** at each conference session, in which the work of the General Board of Missions shall be presented. The president of the conference board shall have charge of such anniversary.

¶ 1302. 1. The Annual Conference, on nomination of the board, shall elect annually a **conference missionary secretary**, to be publicly assigned by the bishop. A vacancy in this office during the conference year may be

filled by the executive committee. This secretary shall promote the policies and plans of the Board of Missions, and be its representative in the conference.

2. There shall be a **district missionary secretary** in each district, appointed by the district superintendent after consultation with the conference missionary secretary, and publicly assigned by the bishop. A vacancy in this office during the conference year may be filled by appointment by the district superintendent. This secretary shall work in co-operation with the district superintendent and conference missionary secretary.

¶ 1303. In the program of home missions and church extension within the bounds of the Annual Conference the board shall act as follows:

1. It shall review, approve, or adjust the askings of the district superintendents for the maintenance program before they are presented to the general board, keeping in mind that, in making final decisions on all askings from the several conferences, the Division of National Missions must take into account the comparative missionary needs of each project and its permanent value of service to the entire church.

2. It may estimate annually the amount necessary for the support of conference missionary work and also the amount necessary for conference church extension, and shall report both estimates to the Commission on World Service and Finance of the conference. The amount raised on these apportionments shall be administered by the board and applied respectively to missions and to church extension. The work of the board shall be subject to the approval of the Annual Conference. The board shall seek to cover all unoccupied territory in the conference by the establishment and support of missions, but missions shall be established only with the consent of the bishop in charge and his Cabinet.

3. At least quadrennially, in consultation with the Cabinet and, where advisable, with city or district missionary boards or societies, it shall provide for a survey of the church-extension needs of the several districts, placing special emphasis on the unchurched areas, with a view to determining in each what should be the over-all

financial objective. Due consideration shall be given to the responsibility of the Division of National Missions for areas requiring missionary and church-extension aid beyond that which the conference is able to provide. From this study an adequate conference-initiated financial program shall be formulated with a view to meeting these needs. A priority list of projects to be developed shall be prepared. The list and all revisions shall be filed with the Division of National Missions.

4. Through its executive committee, or its Section of Church Extension, composed of not less than one third of its members, it shall administer such funds as come into its possession for church extension within the conference; *provided* that it may turn over all its church-extension funds to the Section of Church Extension on the Division of National Missions, which shall expend them within the bounds of the conference under the direction of the conference board.

5. In the administration of such funds as come into its possession for church-extension purposes within the conference it shall have authority to lend or donate any part thereof, whichever in its judgment will better accomplish the desired end. When funds lent or donated are returned, it shall administer them as a portion of the total church-extension funds at its disposal. The foregoing shall not apply to conference board loan funds administered prior to the General Conference of 1948 by the Section of Church Extension of the Division of National Missions. If, however, an Annual Conference so elects, funds lent may become a part of the conference board loan fund, to be administered by the Section of Church Extension of the Division of National Missions on the same terms, conditions, and policies used by the Section of Church Extension.

¶ 1304. The board may appoint a **Committee on Research and Survey**, which shall conduct surveys and make research studies within the bounds of the conference, and shall co-operate with the Department of Research and Survey of the Division of National Missions.

¶ 1305. The board shall appoint, in consultation with the Cabinet, a **Committee on Urban Work**, which shall

include pastors and lay members, district superintendents, and other representatives of various phases of city work and strategy.

¶ 1306. For description of the Commission on Town and Country Work in the Annual Conference see ¶ 1231.

¶ 1307. The promotional work of the Conference Board of Missions shall be included in the conference benevolence budget.

SEC. XII. Local-Church Commissions

¶ 1308. For description of the organization and duties of the Commission on Missions see ¶¶ 256-57 under Part II, The Local Church.

CHAPTER VII

METHODIST COMMITTEE FOR OVERSEAS RELIEF

¶ 1311. There shall be a **Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief**, composed of twelve members as follows: one person from each jurisdiction, nominated by the College of Bishops and elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, and three persons each elected by the Department of Work in Foreign Fields of the Woman's Division of Christian Service and by the Division of World Missions of the Board of Missions. The committee shall be empowered to co-opt not more than seven members at large. Vacancies shall be filled by the body concerned: by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction, or by the department or division, or, in the case of the co-opted members, by the committee itself. The committee is authorized to elect its own officers, to appoint sub-committees if desired, to employ such assistance as may be needed (*see* ¶ 783 § 2a), and to provide for its necessary expense of administration and promotion out of undesignated receipts. Its financial officers shall be bonded.

¶ 1312. The committee is authorized and empowered:

1. To be the representative of The Methodist Church in the field of overseas relief; also in the field of rehabilitation, in conference with the units of the Board of Missions named in ¶ 1311.

2. To transmit to the church the appeals for help from recognized agencies, and to receive and allocate the funds contributed for relief purposes by churches, groups, or individuals.

3. To give special attention and assistance to the national workers and the people of our Methodist churches overseas who are in need because of war or other disasters. In countries where the Board of Missions is at work, it is expected that the administration of specifically Methodist relief be through the board and the bishops in charge and, where possible, the indigenous church.

4. To co-operate with Church World Service and other interdenominational relief agencies, as the committee may deem wise from time to time.

5. When considered desirable, to supplement the work of other agencies ministering to the relief of human suffering in the spirit of Christ.

¶ 1313. In order to provide adequate means for the prosecution of this work, the committee, in addition to its receipts by voluntary gifts and by participation in the Fellowship of Suffering and Service offerings (¶ 763), shall be included in any general church-wide appeal for war emergencies or postwar work. (*See* ¶¶ 759-60.)

¶ 1314. Authorization is given to the committee to acknowledge gifts by its own vouchers. Such gifts, however, cannot receive credit on world service apportionments. (*See* ¶ 746.)

¶ 1315. If at any time during the quadrennium the Council of Bishops, the Council on World Service and Finance, and the Board of Missions decide that the specific work of the committee is no longer needed, the committee shall be discharged and its responsibilities and assets shall be assigned to such agency as those three bodies may determine.

CHAPTER VIII

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SECTION I.

Purpose

¶ 1324. Christian education has its roots in the nature of the Christian gospel itself. Jesus is frequently called Master or Teacher, and he is the authority in our church's program of Christian nurture. His Great Commission is: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always." The purpose of Christian education is to learn, to teach, and to use his way by which persons of all ages are related to God as Father and to all men as brothers.

SEC. II.

Organization

¶ 1325. There shall be a **Board of Education** of The Methodist Church, hereinafter referred to as the General Board of Education, for the promotion of Christian education. The board shall have general oversight of the education interests of the church in the United States. It may co-operate with the Board of Missions for the advancement of Christian education in other lands.

¶ 1326. The board shall be constituted quadrennially and shall be composed of seventeen effective bishops of The Methodist Church resident in the United States, selected by the Council of Bishops, together with additional members selected as follows: On nomination of its Committee on Education, each Jurisdictional Conference shall elect to membership in the board one minister and one layman without regard to the number of members within the jurisdiction, and, in addition, one minister and one layman for each 400,000 members or major fraction thereof within the jurisdiction. Each Jurisdictional Conference shall also elect, on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, one youth or student representative, twenty-one years of age or under at the time of his election; *provided* that if any youth or student representative shall attain his twenty-fourth birth-

day during the quadrennium, his period of service shall terminate at the close of the annual session of the board next following, and he shall be replaced by one within the youth age range by the board from nominations made by the National Conference of Methodist Youth. In making the nominations to the Jurisdictional Conferences the National Conference of Methodist Youth shall choose from nominations made by Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships and state or regional units of the Methodist Student Movement, and shall so arrange the nominations to the six Jurisdictional Conferences that four shall represent the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission and two shall represent the National Methodist Student Commission, changing each quadrennium so as to rotate the student representation among the jurisdictions. The board shall also elect members at large, on nomination of the Council of Bishops, in sufficient number to bring the membership of the board to a total of ninety-one. Not more than three members of the board shall come from any one Annual Conference. Members as elected, and officers and committees as constituted under this constitution, shall continue in office until their successors are chosen and organized as provided in ¶ 1327. *Ad interim* vacancies in the board shall be filled by the board from the jurisdictions in which the vacancies occur.

¶ 1327. Within three months after the adjournment of the last Jurisdictional Conference to meet in that year, the elected members of the board shall be assembled by a convener, designated by the Council of Bishops, to organize in the following manner:

1. A nominating committee shall be elected, which shall be composed of one member chosen by the members from each jurisdiction and one bishop chosen by the bishops who are members of the board.

2. The nominating committee shall nominate all the members of the board to the three divisions—Division of Educational Institutions, Division of the Local Church, and Editorial Division—in the ratio of five, five, and two; and shall nominate a president and a recording secretary.

3. The members of the divisions and the president and

recording secretary of the board shall be elected for the quadrennium from the membership of the board.

4. Each of the divisions shall elect a chairman, and these chairmen shall be vice-presidents of the board.

5. The general secretaries of the Division of Educational Institutions and the Division of the Local Church shall be elected for the quadrennium by the board from nominations made by the respective divisions. A vacancy in either office shall be filled by election by the board. The general secretary of the Editorial Division shall be elected as provided in ¶ 1422.

6. The treasurer shall be elected by the board on nomination of the executive committee.

7. No member of the board shall be a salaried officer of the board.

8. The salaries and duties of all employees of the board except in the Editorial Division shall be fixed by the board.

¶ 1328. In accordance with the provisions of their several charters, the General Board of Education shall from its membership elect such directors, trustees, or members as may be required to maintain the legal continuance so long as may be necessary of the following and any other necessary corporations affiliated with the board, and shall provide for the corporate meetings thereof:

1. General Board of Christian Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

2. The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

3. The Board of Education of the Methodist Protestant Church.

4. The Board of Education for Negroes of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

5. The Board of Sunday Schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

6. The Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The General Board of Education may co-operate with such corporations to consolidate with the General Board of Education or with each other, or the board may act as successor to such corporations whenever any such action

may be found expedient or necessary and be within the charter powers of such corporations or in accordance with the laws of the states in which they are respectively incorporated.

¶ 1329. The General Board of Education shall be incorporated under the laws of whatever state the board may determine.

¶ 1330. The board shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine, subject to the provisions of the act of incorporation, and may hold such special meetings as may be necessary. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1331. The board shall appoint such committees as may be necessary for the proper discharge of its business. It may adopt such by-laws for the regulation of the affairs of the board and its divisions and committees as are not inconsistent with the act of incorporation or with General Conference legislation.

¶ 1332. The president, who shall be a presiding, not an administrative, officer, shall preside over the meetings of the board and of the executive committee.

¶ 1333. 1. The **executive committee** of the board shall be composed of the president and recording secretary of the board and the members of the advisory committees of the three divisions as provided in ¶ 1334. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

2. The executive committee shall manage the funds of the board under such regulations as the board may adopt; appoint finance and investment committees, which shall render to it detailed reports at each meeting; fix the official bond of the treasurer and of any other officers entrusted with the handling of funds; consider and approve the administrative budgets of the board and its divisions, except the Editorial Division.

3. The **treasurer** of the board shall be the custodian of all the funds of the board. He shall keep the accounts of the assets, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements of the board and of the Division of Educational Institutions and the Division of the Local Church. He shall pay out funds on order of the general secretaries of these divisions. He shall report annually to the board and to the executive

committee as requested by it. An associate treasurer may be elected by the board on nomination of the executive committee.

4. The board may commit to the executive committee such other powers and duties as it may determine. Minutes of the executive committee shall be sent to the members of the board and submitted to the annual meeting of the board for approval. Meetings of the committee shall be held at least once each year, not including meetings held in connection with the annual meetings of the board.

¶ 1334. Each of the divisions shall elect from its members an **advisory committee**, consisting of its chairman, recording secretary, and other members to the following totals: Educational Institutions, seven; Local Church, seven; Editorial, four. The president of the board shall also be ex officio a member of each advisory committee, but shall not be charged against any division's quota as established above. These committees shall assist in the conduct of the work and serve as members of the executive committee of the board. (See ¶ 1333 § 1.)

¶ 1335. Each of the divisions shall provide for a review of its work, pass upon recommendations of its general secretary and staff, and make recommendations to the board concerning its needs and programs.

¶ 1336. 1. The **general secretaries** of the divisions shall be the administrative officers of their respective divisions under such regulations as the board may make. Reports of the work of the respective divisions, including organization and budget, except of the Editorial Division, shall be presented annually by them to the board. Assistants to the general secretaries of the Division of Educational Institutions and the Division of the Local Church shall be elected annually by the board on nomination of the respective general secretaries. Assistants to the general secretary of the Editorial Division shall be appointed by him (¶ 1423).

2. The general secretaries shall attend the meetings of the board, the executive committee, and their respective divisions, participating in their deliberations, but without vote.

3. The three general secretaries shall form a **secretarial**

council, which shall choose annually in rotation from its members a presiding officer, and shall meet as necessary to correlate the work of the three divisions.

¶ 1337. 1. The board is authorized to solicit and create special funds; to receive gifts and bequests; to hold properties and securities in trust; and to administer all these financial affairs in accordance with its own rules and the provisions of the Discipline.

2. It shall present quadrennially to the Council on World Service and Finance a statement of the amount required for its general expenses and for the support of each division of its work, except the Editorial Division, which shall be financed as provided in ¶¶ 1148-49.

3. From the funds derived from these and other sources it shall appropriate annually such amounts as it may deem necessary for the support of the Division of Educational Institutions and the Division of the Local Church.

4. In all cases the purposes for which funds are committed to the board shall be strictly observed.

1338. All assets and liabilities existing at the time of union in the funds of the Boards of Education of the three uniting churches shall be the assets and liabilities of the corresponding divisions in the new Board of Education.

¶ 1339. The board shall have authority to make provision for co-operation with any of the general boards or other agencies of the church, or with other agencies, in matters within its field. Each Annual Conference shall determine for itself to what extent it will undertake to co-operate with other denominations or agencies in its own territory.

¶ 1340. As a means of educating the church in regard to better race relations and the needs of Negro schools, **Race Relations Sunday** shall be observed in all the congregations. (See ¶ 250 § 3.)

SEC. III Division of Educational Institutions

¶ 1351. 1. There shall be a **Division of Educational Institutions**, which shall represent The Methodist Church in all activities connected with secondary, higher, and ministerial education. The division shall have an advisory

relationship to all educational institutions affiliated with The Methodist Church: universities, colleges, schools, schools of theology, and Wesley Foundations in the United States. On request it may serve in an advisory capacity to the several agencies of the church owning or administering educational institutions.

2. Its principal objectives shall be: (a) to develop an educational plan and purpose which shall definitely relate the educational institutions of the church to the church; (b) to foster within these institutions the highest educational standards and soundest business practices; and (c) to create and maintain an atmosphere in the institutions conducive to the development of a Christian philosophy of life to the end that all members of the college and university communities may possess a knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, and that students may emerge from their educational experiences prepared to witness to the gospel in every area of life.

3. It shall operate through three constituent departments: Secondary and Higher Education, College and University Religious Life, and Ministerial Education.

4. It shall engage personnel, appoint such commissions and committees and adopt such regulations as necessary for the discharge of its responsibilities.

¶ 1352. Subject to the approval of the board, the division:

1. Shall devise ways and means to aid the educational institutions of the church.

2. Shall elect, on nomination of the general secretary, directors for each of the departments, and such other staff members as are needed for the operation of the division.

3. May establish and conduct schools in the United States in communities in which facilities for education are not adequately provided.

4. Shall maintain an advisory relationship to the schools of theology in the planning of their educational programs and in the development of their financial support, and develop and conduct in-service programs of education for preachers, including approved supply pastors and other local preachers.

5. Shall promote the religious training and activities of students at institutions of The Methodist Church and of Methodist students at tax-supported and other institutions not related to The Methodist Church.

¶ 1353. The **Department of Secondary and Higher Education** shall have primary responsibility for the work of the division as outlined in ¶¶ 1351-52 and hereafter described more specifically in ¶¶ 1354-59 in so far as the provisions thereof relate to schools, colleges, and universities.

¶ 1354. 1. The division shall disburse such funds as are approved by the board for the maintenance and promotion of the work committed to it under such rules as the board may adopt and may appropriate available funds toward the support of educational institutions related to The Methodist Church.

2. In making appropriations for the support of educational institutions, the division shall give due consideration to their actual current financial needs as shown in carefully prepared reports presented by them on forms provided by the division. Appropriations to institutions from funds at the disposal of the division shall not debar those institutions from soliciting aid from their supporting conferences or from other sources. (See ¶ 1391.)

3. The division shall co-operate with the General and Annual Conferences in their efforts to provide the institutions related to them adequate financial income for the operation of accredited educational programs.

4. The division shall recommend to Jurisdictional and Annual Conference Boards of Education concerned with the appropriation of conference funds those institutions whose educational and religious aims and programs are in active accord with the policies of the church as expressed in the Discipline and through special General Conference enactments. (See ¶ 1385.)

5. The division shall have power to administer under the rules and regulations of the board any and all funds, gifts, and bequests which have been or may be committed to the board for the purposes of the division; and, subject to the approval of the board, it may solicit or create special funds for its projects. The purposes for which the

funds are given and accepted shall be sacredly observed.

6. The division may take such action as necessary to protect or recover the investment which it or an Annual Conference has made in capital funds to any institution founded, organized, developed, or assisted under the direction or with the co-operation of The Methodist Church, should any such institution discontinue operation or move to sever or to modify its connection with the church or violate the terms of any such grant of new capital funds made by The Methodist Church.

¶ 1355. 1. The division shall, in co-operation with the University Senate, study population growth and trends and make recommendations to the Annual Conferences concerning the needs for new institutions of learning and the discontinuance, relocation, and merger of existing institutions.

2. No educational institution hereafter established or acquired shall be qualified for classification as a Methodist institution or be aided by the division unless the division shall have been consulted and shall have approved the expenditures involved in the establishment or acquisition of such institution. (See ¶¶ 1367, 1391.)

3. An institution receiving appropriations from the division which incurs debt obligations, bonded or otherwise, for expansion programs without first submitting its proposed plans to the division for consideration and counsel relinquishes its right to appropriations until the debt so incurred is liquidated.

¶ 1356. 1. The division, through such officers, committees, and commissions as it may deem necessary, shall provide for the co-operative study of plans for maximum integration of the work of our educational institutions within the church's entire program of Christian education.

2. In co-operation with the Annual Conferences and the pastors of local churches, the division shall bring to the attention of our members the contribution of our educational institutions to the life and character of youth, and the place the institutions have in the preservation and propagation of Christianity.

3. The division shall be responsible for promoting Race

Relations Sunday and Methodist Student Day. (See ¶¶ 250 §§ 3-4, 1340.)

¶ 1357. 1. The division shall be the agency of the board in administering institutions for **Christian education among Negroes**, except those institutions now owned by other agencies. It shall have authority to recommend to the board plans by which schools sponsored by it may co-operate with or may unite with schools of other denominations or under independent control, provided the interests of The Methodist Church are adequately protected.

2. The division shall encourage such schools to secure adequate endowments for their support and maintenance. Whenever the General Board of Education is assured that their support will be adequate and the property will be conserved and perpetuated for Christian education under the auspices and control of The Methodist Church, it may, on recommendation of the division, transfer the schools to boards of trustees under such conditions as the General Board of Education may prescribe, including right of reversion to the General Board of Education.

¶ 1358. The division shall promote and administer the **Student Loan Fund**, the **National Methodist Scholarship Fund**, and other grants and bequests made to the division for the aid of students in accordance with regulations recommended by the division and adopted by the board.

¶ 1359. **Educational societies or foundations** created by Annual Conferences may be recognized as auxiliaries of the General Board of Education when their objects and purposes, their articles of incorporation, and their methods of administration shall have been approved by the Annual Conference within whose bounds they are incorporated and by the division. All auxiliaries thus formed shall be required to make an annual report of their fiscal and administrative affairs to the division.

¶ 1360. There shall be a **Committee on Co-operation and Counsel** of ten members, five to be appointed by the General Board of Education and five by the Board of Missions, nominated by the Department of Work in Home Fields of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, to take under consideration all matters involving education-

al work in institutions in which agencies of both boards may have responsibility.

¶ 1363. The **Department of College and University Religious Life** shall have primary responsibility for the work of the division with college and university students as outlined in ¶¶ 1351-52 and hereafter described more specifically in ¶¶ 1364-70.

¶ 1364. In its work with students the division, in cooperation with Annual Conferences, shall have the following responsibilities:

1. To organize and maintain Wesley Foundations at state and independent institutions.

2. To assist Methodist institutions of higher education in their religious activities.

3. To study the religious needs of students, assist in evangelistic work among students, and enlist suitable candidates for full-time religious vocations.

¶ 1365. There shall be a governing body for the student work in every college community where The Methodist Church is at work, as follows:

1. For each Wesley Foundation there shall be a Board of Directors as described in ¶ 1367 § 2.

2. For each Methodist institution of higher learning there shall be a Campus-Church Relations Committee (or Executive Committee on Religious Life). Qualifications for membership shall be determined by the institution in consultation with the division.

3. For each other institution there shall be a Campus-Church Relations Committee nominated by a local Methodist body and elected by the Conference Board of Education.

¶ 1366. A **Wesley Foundation** is the organized educational ministry of The Methodist Church at a state or independent college or university. The character of this ministry shall be defined by the division. Every Wesley Foundation shall be related in organization and program to the Methodist church or churches in the immediate vicinity of the college or university community.

¶ 1367. 1. The division shall appoint a **Commission on Standards for Wesley Foundations**, which shall be the standardizing agency for all student work related to The

Methodist Church at state and independent campuses in the United States. It shall be composed of six members of the division and five persons, not members of the General Board of Education, who are actively engaged in Wesley Foundation work, and who are fitted by training and experience to establish standards and evaluate the educational, religious, and financial program of Wesley Foundations. This commission shall report to the division the Wesley Foundations which meet the standards established by the commission and therefore qualify for financial support from the General Board of Education and the Annual Conferences.

2. A Wesley Foundation, to be approved by this commission, shall have a **Board of Directors** composed of members from the local campus-church community and members at large representing the interests of the Annual Conference or Conferences. They shall be elected by the Annual Conference or Conferences on nomination of the Conference Board or Boards of Education. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the direction and administration of the foundation in accordance with the policies and standards established by the Conference Board or Boards and the General Board of Education.

¶ 1368. To fulfill its responsibility for the religious training and activities of Methodist students the division may make appropriations for the maintenance of approved Wesley Foundations (under conditions approved by the division) and other organizations with similar purposes in the United States, which have been established or which may hereafter be established. It shall revise annually a list of approved Wesley Foundations which have met its requirements. A Wesley Foundation or other religious program in a Methodist or non-Methodist institution receiving financial aid shall submit annually reports of its work and financial operations on forms provided by the division. Appropriations made by the division toward the maintenance of religious work at any given institution shall not preclude the solicitation of additional funds from supporting conferences.

¶ 1369. In carrying out its responsibility for the operation and maintenance of religious work among Meth-

odist students enrolled in institutions of higher education, the division shall relate campus Christian organizations on Methodist campuses, Wesley Foundations at state and independent colleges and universities, and such other organizations as may be developed, to the intercollegiate Christian movement known as the **Methodist Student Movement**. There shall be such state or similar area units, regional and national, as the division shall see fit to maintain. The division shall publish such materials as are necessary to develop this work.

¶ 1370. The Boards of Education of the Annual Conferences of a given state or region shall create at the beginning of each quadrennium an **Interconference Commission on Student Religious Work** to co-ordinate all intercollegiate work of the Methodist Student Movement and to give general oversight to student work at the institutions of higher learning. It shall have such powers and responsibilities as the conference boards, in consultation with the division, shall delegate to it. This commission may elect a state or regional **director of student work**, whose duties and responsibilities shall be determined by the commission in co-operation with the executive secretaries of the conference boards involved.

¶ 1371. For description of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, the National Methodist Student Commission, and provisions for correlating youth and student work, see ¶¶ 1404-6.

¶ 1372. 1. In the Division of Educational Institutions there shall be a **Department of Ministerial Education**, which shall oversee the training of the ministry of the church. The department shall be composed of twelve persons, six bishops and six ministers, selected from the membership of the division. The division shall select from the Methodist schools of theology six representatives to serve as advisory members on all matters pertaining to the schools of theology. The representatives, however, shall not participate in the allocation of appropriations for schools of theology. The division shall select six advisory members from the faculties of the schools of theology to assist in preparing the prescribed courses of study.

2. The division shall elect, on nomination of the general secretary, a **director of theological education**, who shall be responsible for that part of the program of the division dealing with the educational preparation of candidates for the traveling ministry, except those entering through the courses of study. (See ¶¶ 323-25, 342.) He shall serve as a liaison officer between the division and the Methodist schools of theology and shall be responsible for promoting theological education in the church.

3. The division shall elect, on nomination of the general secretary, a **director of in-service training**, who shall supervise the courses of study for candidates qualifying for the traveling ministry under ¶ 325 §§ 2-3 and ¶ 343, for approved supply pastors, and for other local preachers. He shall also be responsible for approved supply pastors' schools and all correspondence courses for ministerial training in the courses of study.

4. The department shall be responsible for: maintaining the educational standards for the ministry (see Part III, The Ministry, Chapters II-V, ¶¶ 304-415); ministerial recruiting, in co-operation with the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations; the educational preparation of candidates for the ministry; relationships with the Annual Conference Boards of Ministerial Training and Qualifications (¶¶ 669-74) in all matters pertaining to procedures and records, and Selective Service exemption; schools and programs of continuing education and inspiration for ministerial conference members; and interdenominational relationships such as the Committee on the Ministry of the National Council of Churches. These matters shall be the responsibility of both the director of theological education and the director of in-service training in co-operation with the general secretary of the division.

¶ 1373. The work of the department shall be supported from the general benevolences of the church. The division shall recommend to the Council on World Service and Finance, as items apart from its own budget, the amounts of financial support which should be allocated for ministerial education.

¶ 1374. 1. The department shall prescribe the courses of study required for license to preach and for admission on trial; also a four-year **ministerial course of study** for candidates qualifying for the traveling ministry under ¶ 325 § 3 and ¶ 343, for approved supply pastors (¶ 317 §§ 2-3), and for candidates for orders as local preachers (¶¶ 393, 403; *see also* ¶ 307 § 2). It shall recommend courses of reading and also provide advanced courses of study for preachers who have finished the above courses.

2. It shall co-operate with the Boards of Ministerial Training and Qualifications and other conference boards in organizing, financing, and conducting **pastors' schools**, which shall be of two kinds: (a) short-term schools to provide programs of inspiration and instruction for all ministers; (b) schools which offer work in the courses of study.

3. It shall, in co-operation with the Methodist schools of theology, administer **correspondence** work in the courses of study described in § 1.

4. All work in the courses of study for candidates for the traveling ministry (¶ 325 §§ 2-3 and ¶ 343) and for local preachers seeking renewal of license (¶ 307 § 2), including approved supply pastors qualifying for appointment (¶ 317 §§ 2-3) and for authority to administer the Sacraments (¶ 318), shall be taken under the direction of the Department of Ministerial Education either in an approved pastors' school or through correspondence.

¶ 1375. The Department of Ministerial Education, the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, and the Boards of Ministerial Training and Qualifications shall co-operate in the development of effective methods of selective recruiting for the ministry. The boards shall exercise control over the numbers to be enlisted in order to provide an adequate supply of trained ministers.

¶ 1376. The department shall continue the study of the ministry, and report on the subject to each General Conference.

SEC. IV.

Schools of Theology

¶ 1378. 1. The **schools of theology** of the church are established and maintained for training ministers. They

exist for the benefit of the whole church, and their support shall be provided by the church as a part of its general benevolent giving. (*See* ¶ 1354 § 2.)

2. The Division of Educational Institutions, for the purpose of providing for the better support of these schools, in consultation with their administrative officers, shall establish budget askings for their adequate support. The amount necessary for such support shall be added as a separate item in the annual askings of the General Board of Education from the benevolence funds as determined by the authoritative body.

3. No school of theology or department of theology in a college or university shall be established without first submitting its proposed organization and classification to the University Senate for prior approval. (*See* ¶ 1391.)

¶ 1379. It is expected that our schools of theology, in addition to training their students for effective service for Christ and the Church, shall acquaint them with the current programs of The Methodist Church, such as its educational, missionary, social, and other service programs, and with the organizations and terminology of the church.

¶ 1380. The Methodist schools of theology share with the Boards of Ministerial Training and Qualifications the responsibility for the selection and education of young people for admission to the Annual Conferences.

1. It is recommended therefore that these schools, before admitting a candidate for the Methodist ministry as a divinity student, shall (a) inquire into his personal character and promise of usefulness in the ministry, (b) require satisfactory evidence of his having been licensed to preach, and (c) require a letter of recommendation from the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications of the Annual Conference in which he resides.

2. It is further recommended that, when such a candidate has been admitted, the school shall give careful attention to his progress in studies and his personal and religious development, to determine whether he should be continued in his preparation for the ministry. When a candidate's progress is adjudged to be unsatisfactory, he should not be permitted to continue. Notification of the

termination of his relationship in the school shall be given by the school to the registrar of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications where his Annual Conference relations are recorded.

SEC. V.

University Senate.

§ 1382. The University Senate shall be the accrediting and standardizing agency for all the educational institutions related to The Methodist Church in the United States.

§ 1383. The University Senate shall be composed of twenty-one persons, not members of the General Board of Education, who are actively engaged in the work of education and are fitted by training and experience for the technical work of establishing standards and evaluating educational institutions in accordance with such standards. Eleven of these members shall be elected quadrennially by the General Board of Education, and ten shall be appointed by the Council of Bishops. Due regard shall be given to representation from the various types of institutions included in the University Senate's classification of educational institutions. If, in consequence of the retirement of a member from educational work or for any other cause, a vacancy occurs in the senate during the quadrennium, it shall be filled by the agency by which the retiring member was elected, at its next meeting.

§ 1384. The senate shall establish and assist in maintaining standards for the educational institutions related to The Methodist Church in the United States and shall sustain an advisory relation to the General Board of Education in matters of educational institutions. It shall prepare and publish annually a proper classification of all educational institutions in the United States which are related to The Methodist Church. Such classification shall comprise the official senate list of educational institutions related to the church, and on the basis of this list, the Division of Educational Institutions shall be governed in its work.

§ 1385. The senate shall investigate, as conditions may warrant or require, the personnel, scholastic requirements, resources, and procedure of any designated educational institution claiming or adjudged to be related to

The Methodist Church and shall report to the sponsoring board or agency through the Division of Educational Institutions decisions as to whether or not the standards and educational and religious services of the institution are such as to justify its official recognition and continued financial support by the church.

§ 1386. The senate shall act as consultant and counselor on all educational matters to all educational institutions related to the church and as needed shall make to the sponsoring board or other agency of the church through the Division of Educational Institutions, to the Conference Boards of Education, or to other constituent bodies recommendations leading to their improvement or accreditation. Failure of any educational institution to make reasonable progress in complying with said recommendations of the senate may render the institution ineligible for further support by the Division of Educational Institutions, or by its related board or other agency, Annual Conference, or Conferences.

§ 1387. The senate as the accrediting agent for all educational institutions of the church may investigate, on its own initiative or at the written request of any general board of the church or Conference Board of Education or institutional board of trustees, the educational work of an institution related to said board, and shall report to the board concerned its recommendations as to what specific changes or improvements should be made.

§ 1388. The senate shall elect its own presiding officer and may appoint such committees and may delegate to them such powers as are incident to its work. The general secretary of the Division of Educational Institutions shall be the **executive secretary** of the senate. He shall convene the senate at the beginning of each quadrennium for organization. Thereafter the senate shall meet annually at such time and place as it may determine. Special meetings may be called on the written request of five members or at the discretion of the presiding officer and the executive secretary.

§ 1389. After consultation with the officers of the senate, the Division of Educational Institutions shall provide in its annual budget, as it may deem sufficient, for the

expense of the senate, except that expenses incurred by the senate on behalf of any other board of the church shall be borne by that board.

¶ 1390. Educational institutions in the United States related to The Methodist Church are classified as follows:

1. Universities
2. Colleges of liberal arts
3. Schools of theology
4. Junior colleges
5. Secondary schools
6. Training schools for religious workers
7. Other schools

It shall be the duty of the executive secretary of the senate to secure from each educational institution related to The Methodist Church such information as may be needed by the senate for an understanding of the status, work, and progress of the institution. This information shall be supplied on forms approved by the senate.

¶ 1391. 1. The senate may, in co-operation with the Division of Educational Institutions, study population growth and trends and consider recommendations to the Annual Conferences concerning the need for new institutions of learning, and the discontinuance, relocation, and merger of existing institutions. (See ¶ 1355 § 1.)

2. No educational institution or foundation of The Methodist Church shall hereafter be established until its plans and organization shall have been approved by the senate and the division; and no Annual or Provisional Annual Conference in the United States shall acquire, or affiliate with, through any board or society, a school, college, university, or other educational institution unless the approval of the senate and the division shall have been previously obtained and unless, in the judgment of the division, there is reasonable assurance of financial support sufficient to equip and maintain the institution in the classification approved for it by the senate. In no case shall the division aid an institution which announces a change in its classification until the senate shall have approved the new classification. (See ¶ 1355 § 2.)

SEC. VI. Division of the Local Church

¶ 1396. The Division of the Local Church shall develop a comprehensive and unified program of Christian education which shall lead to commitment to Christ and membership in his Church and to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, the Christian religion, and the Christian Church. It shall provide for worship, fellowship, study, and service, including social, recreational, evangelistic, and missionary activities, and education in the Christian way of life. It shall be responsible for forming standards and preparing programs for the organization and work of Christian education in the local church in accordance with provisions as set forth in ¶¶ 231-51, including standards for the offices of director of Christian education and of minister of music. It shall also seek ways and means of promoting the attendance of children, youth, and adults in all church-school organizations, and especially in the group known as the Sunday school, and shall establish standards defining membership and attendance in the church school and governing the maintenance of the membership roll. In co-operation with the Editorial Division it shall seek to inform the church on all phases of church-school work; shall establish and maintain standards; shall co-operate with the Curriculum Committee in determining the curriculum of the church school, including the courses of leadership education; and give direction to a comprehensive and unified program of Christian education in the local church. It shall provide for instruction concerning the significance and work of the church and the functions of its various officers and boards.

¶ 1397. The division shall organize such departments as may be necessary for the proper promotion of Christian education of children, youth, young adults, and other adults in local churches; and for leadership education, evangelism, and missionary education in the church schools.

¶ 1398. 1. The division shall have supervision of all the training processes of the church for both lay and ministerial workers, except where these have been specifically delegated to other agencies.

2. The division shall provide programs for the training of pastors, parents, teachers, officials, and others in the work of the local church, and promote these programs through various types of training schools, correspondence work, and such other agencies as it may see fit to establish. It shall have authority also to promote and conduct educational conferences, councils, assemblies, and other meetings in the interest of church schools and Christian education of children, youth, and adults, and in the interest of an improved leadership.

¶ 1399. The division shall co-operate with other agencies in the promotion of brotherhoods, men's councils, and kindred organizations to the end that the different organizations of the church may be correlated under a unified program for aggressive Christian service.

¶ 1400. The division shall have authority to co-operate with the Jurisdictional and Annual Conference Boards of Education, the Editorial Division, and other agencies in the promotion and holding of a meeting to be known as the **Methodist Conference on Christian Education**.

¶ 1401. 1. The division shall provide guidance for local churches in equipment, arrangement, and design of church-school buildings or rooms.

2. The division shall develop standards governing the work of local-church directors of Christian education and concerning their certification as provided in ¶ 247.

3. The division shall develop standards governing the work of local-church ministers of music and serve as may be possible in advancing this field of work in the church. It shall also co-operate with the **National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians**.

4. The division shall prepare standards for all types of camping, including standards for camp sites and other physical aspects of camping and standards for the program, leadership, and curriculum for use in Methodist camps, including day camps.

¶ 1402. The division, with the co-operation of the Division of Educational Institutions where its program is concerned, shall have authority to develop, within the church, organizations of youth, nationally and in jurisdictions, conferences, districts, and subdivisions of dis-

tricts; *provided*, however, that such organizations shall include all groups within a given age range within the local church.

¶ 1403. The youth of The Methodist Church between ages twelve and twenty-three inclusive, except as provided in ¶ 244 § 1, including all organizational units, shall be known as the **Methodist Youth Fellowship**. When one becomes a member in the Youth Division in a local Methodist church, he is thereby a member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

¶ 1404. 1. The Division of the Local Church in co-operation with the Division of Educational Institutions is authorized to sponsor the **National Conference of Methodist Youth**, of which some of the functions shall be:

a) To provide for the free expression of the voice of Methodist youth.

b) To provide for fellowship of Methodist youth and students from the entire church.

c) To select projects of particular interest to youth which shall be promoted and supported by them.

d) To give youth free opportunity to participate creatively in planning the church's program, by making recommendations to all the boards and agencies of the church, and through the youth members of the general boards and other agencies, and through fellowship with the staff members of these boards and agencies.

2. The membership of this conference shall consist of its own council, the presidents of Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships and of state or regional units of the Methodist Student Movement, eight students at large, six state or regional directors of student work elected by the National Methodist Student Commission, and six conference directors of youth work, one from each jurisdiction, elected by the conference directors of youth work of that jurisdiction for a two-year term, the election to take place during the biennial Methodist Conference on Christian Education. In addition the following shall be *ex officio* members: all youth members of the general boards and commissions; staff members of the Division of the Local Church responsible for youth work; staff members of the Division of Educational Institutions responsible for stu-

dent work; staff members of the Department of Youth Publications of the Editorial Division; four staff members of the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation of the Board of Missions; and one staff member each from the Board of Temperance, Board of World Peace, Board of Evangelism, Board of Social and Economic Relations, Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, and Commission on Chaplains.

3. The conference shall meet annually and shall elect from its membership a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a financial secretary. The treasurer of the General Board of Education shall be its treasurer. Its financial support shall be provided for by the general agencies which co-operate with it. The conference may make by-laws governing its operations. It shall report annually on its meetings and activities to the General Board of Education.

4. Projects selected by the conference shall be administered by one or more **project secretaries** under the supervision of the joint staff on youth and student work of the Division of the Local Church and the Division of Educational Institutions. Project secretaries shall be selected by the general secretaries of the Division of the Local Church and the Division of Educational Institutions from nominations made by the National Conference of Methodist Youth.

¶ 1405. 1. For the purpose of correlating youth and student work of the General Board of Education, the Division of the Local Church and the Division of Educational Institutions shall develop interstaff co-operation between the members of the staffs of the two divisions who are responsible for youth work and for student work. This joint staff shall correlate youth and student work of the board, giving particular emphasis to areas of mutual concern; it shall develop an effective program for older youth of The Methodist Church. This joint staff shall meet at least twice each year. The president of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, the chairman of the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission, and the chairman of the National Methodist Student Commission shall meet with this joint staff.

2. The Division of the Local Church shall be responsible for unifying youth work of The Methodist Church and the Division of Educational Institutions shall be responsible for unifying student work of The Methodist Church so that there may be no overlapping and duplicating programs of work for youth and students. To this end at least once each year representatives of the other boards and agencies which are concerned with work with youth and students shall be invited to participate with the members of the staff of the Division of the Local Church and the Division of Educational Institutions who are responsible for work with youth and students in a joint interboard youth staff for the purpose of the inclusion of the interests, emphases, and concerns of the boards of The Methodist Church in the unified program of youth work and the unified program of student work. The following shall also be invited to participate in this meeting: the youth and student members of the General Board of Education; the president, vice-president, and recording secretary of the National Conference of Methodist Youth; and three representatives of the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission and three representatives of the National Methodist Student Commission to be elected by these commissions. The general secretaries of the three divisions of the General Board of Education shall attend these staff conferences.

¶ 1406. 1. There shall be a **National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission** for the purpose of fellowship, evaluation, and program planning in the areas that relate to general youth work, particularly in the local church. It shall be composed of the presidents of Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships, one half the youth members of the general boards and other agencies, the representatives from the commission to the General Council of the United Christian Youth Movement, the staff of the Youth Department of the Division of the Local Church and of the Department of Youth Publications of the Editorial Division, the staff related to local-church youth work of other general agencies, and six conference directors of youth work, one from each jurisdiction, elected by the conference directors of youth work of that jurisdiction

for a two-year term, the election to take place during the biennial Methodist Conference on Christian Education.

2. There shall be a **National Methodist Student Commission** for the purpose of fellowship, evaluation, and program planning in areas that relate to student work. It shall be composed of the presidents of state or similar regional student organizations, at least eight representative students at large, state or regional directors of student work, the staff of the Department of College and University Religious Life, one half the youth members of the general boards and other agencies, and the staff related to student work of other general agencies.

3. Each commission shall have power to make recommendations to all groups, agencies, and boards in the church which have work with youth, particularly to the Youth Department of the Division of the Local Church, the Department of Youth Publications of the Editorial Division, and the Department of College and University Religious Life of the Division of Educational Institutions.

¶ 1407. 1. In order that church schools may be made available for those for whom The Methodist Church is responsible, the Division of the Local Church shall be authorized to project and promote plans for church-school extension throughout the church, and to contribute to the support of church schools requiring assistance in mission territory.

2. The division shall have authority to enter into agreements with Jurisdictional Boards of Education by which the jurisdictional board may promote a program of church-school extension in accordance with the policies of the general board and employ extension secretaries for work in rural and neglected areas. As part of this agreement, the jurisdictional board shall make an annual budget for the extension program which shall be submitted, together with quarterly reports on the distribution of the funds herein provided for, to the general secretary of the division.

¶ 1408. The division shall have the responsibility for working out, in co-operation with Jurisdictional Boards of Education, a general program and plan of organization for the furtherance within the Annual Conference of all

the interests of Christian education with the supervision of which the division is charged. This shall include the holding within the conference territory of training schools, conferences, educational councils, federations, assemblies, and such other meetings in the interest of Christian education as the division may deem wise. It shall call together the officers and representatives of the jurisdictional boards for counsel regarding Annual Conference organization and program of work in the field of Christian education in the local church.

¶ 1409. 1. The division shall have authority to receive and administer funds, gifts, or bequests that may be committed to it for any portion of its work; and to solicit, establish, and administer any special funds that may be found necessary for the carrying out of its plans and policies.

2. The division may solicit special contributions in the church schools in its own area of work. Only such special solicitations as are approved by the Divisional Committee on the Local Church may be promoted in the church schools.

¶ 1410. The division shall, in co-operation with the Division of Educational Institutions, discover and give guidance to volunteers for all forms of vocational religious work, offering training courses and all other aids designed to provide vocational guidance for all young people of the church.

SEC. VII. Co-operation with Other Boards

¶ 1412. 1. There shall be an Interboard Committee on Town and Country work, whose composition and functions are set forth in ¶ 1230.

2. There shall be a Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields. (See ¶¶ 1283-85.)

¶ 1413. 1. There shall be an Interboard Committee on Missionary Education for the purpose of promoting effective co-operation between the Board of Missions and the Board of Education. (See ¶¶ 1286-88.)

2. In the discharge of its responsibility for supervising missionary education in the church school, the Division of the Local Church shall provide for the par-

ticipation by local-church, district, and conference youth fellowships in the **Methodist Youth Fund**. Local treasurers shall send the full amount of Methodist Youth Fund offerings, without division in the local church, to the Annual Conference treasurer, by whom it shall be divided and sent monthly, one half to the treasurer of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service (for transmission by her to the treasurer of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions) for missions, and one half to the treasurer of the General Board of Education for missions and youth work under agreements made by the Youth Department with participating youth organizations. The missionary portion of this latter one half shall not be less than forty per cent of the said one half, and shall be for Christian education and youth work in mission fields. The Methodist Youth Fund shall be given recognition in a separate column in the pastor's report to the Annual Conference, but shall not receive benevolence credit.

3. The Interboard Committee on Missionary Education is authorized to modify these provisions in the interest of such further simplification as may be found possible, with the approval of the General Board of Education and the Board of Missions, including the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

¶ 1414. There shall be a **Joint Committee on Architecture**, composed of the general secretary of the Division of the Local Church, three others to be elected by the Board of Education, and four other persons elected by the Division of National Missions of the Board of Missions. This committee shall have authority to prepare standards for the architecture of churches, parsonages, and religious educational buildings and to recommend them to the co-operating boards; and is authorized, under such provisions as the boards may agree on, to offer counsel in the erection of such buildings. The committee shall meet annually and at such other times as its work may require.

¶ 1415. 1. There shall be an **Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations**. Its purpose shall be to develop plans and correlate efforts for the more effective enlistment

and guidance of persons in vocations in the church and its agencies, and to seek to interpret to the church through its several agencies the total field of vocation in Christian terms. It shall give leadership in developing a philosophy of Christian vocation, always stressing the potential sacredness of all useful work. It shall lead in discovering and making known the various needs of the church at home and abroad, and seek to enlist youth for Christian service through all the appropriate agencies of the church. (See ¶¶ 146, 670, 675-77, 1189, 1364, 1375, 1564.)

2. The committee shall be composed of three bishops, selected by the Council of Bishops; four representatives from the Board of Missions, four from the Board of Education, two from the Board of Hospitals and Homes, and one each from the Association of Methodist Theological Schools, the Board of World Peace, the Board of Lay Activities, the Board of Temperance, the Commission on Chaplains, and the Board of Evangelism, selected by their respective agencies; the directors of the Department of Ministerial Education; and one project secretary of the National Conference of Methodist Youth.

3. It shall elect from its membership an **executive committee** of seven persons, consisting of one bishop, one representative from the Department of Ministerial Education, one from the Board of Hospitals and Homes, two from the Board of Education, and two—one a woman—from the Board of Missions.

4. There shall be an **executive secretary** for the committee, elected by the General Board of Education on nomination of the committee. He shall be responsible to the committee. He shall be administratively related to the Division of the Local Church and have such staff relationships with the other participating agencies as shall be necessary to the promotion of his work.

5. The expenses of the committee shall be met by the participating agencies on such ratio as they may decide.

¶ 1416. In order to extend and strengthen temperance education in The Methodist Church there shall be a **Joint Committee on Temperance Education**, composed of the general secretary of the Division of the Local Church, the general secretary of the Board of Temper-

ance, two other representatives from the Division of the Local Church, two from the Board of Temperance, and two from the Woman's Division of Christian Service. The duties of this committee shall be to plan for and correlate the program of The Methodist Church in temperance education, and to make recommendations to the Division of the Local Church and to the Board of Temperance.

¶ 1417. 1. There shall be a **General Committee on Family Life**, which shall be related administratively to the Division of the Local Church of the General Board of Education and shall co-operate with its Department of the Christian Family to promote activities of a creative nature that can be most efficiently engaged in by the boards working together, including the planning of national, regional, and area conferences on family life. (See ¶¶ 234, 1452.)

2. The committee shall be composed of four bishops, one of whom shall be designated chairman, three ministers, and three laymen elected by the Council of Bishops, and staff members or other representatives elected by general agencies as follows: five from the Division of the Local Church and two from the Editorial Division of the Board of Education, two from the Board of Evangelism, one each from the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions and the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions, and one each from the Board of Lay Activities, the Board of Temperance, the Television, Radio, and Film Commission, the Board of Hospitals and Homes, and The Methodist Publishing House. In addition three ministers and three laymen at large shall be elected by the committee.

3. The program of the committee shall be financed by the General Administration Fund according to the budget adopted by the General Conference.

¶ 1418. A **Joint Committee on Materials for Training for Church Membership** shall be created by the Board of Education and the Board of Evangelism for the purpose of preparing materials for the training of persons for church membership. It shall be composed of two bishops, three pastors and three laymen (one from each jurisdiction), the general secretaries of the Division of the Local Church

and of the Editorial Division of the Board of Education, the general secretary of the Board of Evangelism, the book editor, the directors of the Department of Ministerial Education, and three qualified persons elected by the committee.

SEC. VIII. Education in the Local Church

¶ 1420. The program for education in the local church is described in ¶¶ 231-51, under Part II, The Local Church.

SEC. IX.

Editorial Division

¶ 1421. The **Editorial Division** shall be responsible for the creation of all curriculum materials approved by the General Board of Education for publication or production.

¶ 1422. There shall be an **editor of church-school publications**, elected quadrennially by the General Board of Education from nominations of a joint committee of the Board of Publication and the Editorial Division of the Board of Education, which committee shall be composed of the chairman of the Board of Publication, the president of the Board of Education, and two members from the Board of Publication and two members from the Editorial Division of the Board of Education. The election of the editor shall be subject to confirmation by the Board of Publication. The editor shall be the general secretary in charge of the Editorial Division of the Board of Education. A vacancy in this office shall be filled by the same procedure as in the election of the editor.

¶ 1423. The editor of church-school publications shall appoint his assistants.

¶ 1424. The publications of the General Board of Education, except as provided in ¶ 1153, shall be manufactured, promoted, and distributed through The Methodist Publishing House, as set forth in ¶¶ 1149-51.

¶ 1425. Through the Editorial Division, working in co-operation with the Curriculum Committee, the General Board of Education shall provide all curriculum materials necessary for carrying on its work. The editor of church-school publications shall be responsible to the Board of Education through its Editorial Division for editorial policies and content and preparation of curriculum ma-

terials, including periodicals, undated materials, and books authorized for use in the program of Christian education. In the preparation of books approved by the Curriculum Committee for use in the program of Christian education he shall consult with the book editor. In matters of publication and financing he shall be responsible to the Board of Publication. (See ¶¶ 1148-53.) The circulation of the literature prepared by this division shall be a joint responsibility of the Board of Education and the Board of Publication. The editor shall also be responsible for the preparation of visual education materials relating to the curriculum.

¶ 1426. 1. There shall be a **Curriculum Committee**, which shall determine the curriculum of the church school and recommend to the editor of church-school publications for final approval by the General Board of Education the materials to be produced for use in church schools (including the Methodist Youth Fellowship), training schools, and all other agencies related in any way to the work of the board. The committee shall also make plans for the improvement and circulation of the church-school literature.

2. The committee shall consist of not fewer than eleven nor more than seventeen members, among whom shall be the general secretaries of the three divisions, the book editor, the executive secretary of the Inter-board Committee on Missionary Education, and the publisher. Other members shall be appointed by the executive committee of the General Board of Education, who shall give due consideration to the necessity of having on the committee at least three workers in local churches and other members representing agencies of the church which use teaching material. The executive committee may invite other individuals to act as consulting members without vote. The members of the staffs of the three divisions shall be consulting members without vote.

¶ 1427. The publisher may sit with the General Board of Education for the consideration of matters pertaining to the joint interests of the Board of Education and the Board of Publication and shall have the privilege of the floor, without vote. (See also ¶ 1152.)

Sec. X.

Jurisdictional Boards

¶ 1428. In each jurisdiction there may be a **Jurisdictional Board of Education** to promote the institutional and local-church programs of Christian education and church-school extension and the use of church-school literature approved by the General Board of Education.

¶ 1429. The jurisdictional board shall be auxiliary to the general board and shall co-operate with it in advancing the interest of educational institutions, Wesley Foundations, and similar work in Methodist colleges, and of the entire program of Christian education in the local church. It also shall conduct training schools, assemblies, and other gatherings for religious purposes, promote intelligent use of the literature of the general board, and hold at least one meeting annually at which a representative of the general board shall be present.

¶ 1430. The board shall be composed of the effective bishops within the jurisdiction, and one minister and one layman from each Annual Conference, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Conference Board of Education, elected by the Annual Conference, from nominations made by the Conference Board of Education, at its session next preceding the Jurisdictional Conference. In addition there shall be youth members at large, one from each episcopal area as it existed prior to the sessions of the Jurisdictional Conference at which the board is constituted. These youth members shall be twenty-three years of age or under at the time of their selection and shall be chosen by the Jurisdictional Conference Committee on Education from nominations made by the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships within the jurisdiction. Care shall be taken to elect persons who are qualified for the work of the board by experience in educational institutions and in the local church and by training and interest. No salaried officer of the jurisdictional board shall be a member of the board. The executive secretary of the board shall be an ex officio member.

¶ 1431. The organization of the new board shall be effected at the beginning of the quadrennium in the following way: A convener, appointed by the bishops of the

jurisdiction, shall assemble the members of the new board for organization at the earliest possible date after their election; *provided* that ample notice shall be given to all members to enable them to be present. The convener shall effect a permanent organization.

¶ 1432. The officers of the board shall be a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and an executive secretary. These officers shall be elected quadrennially by the board by ballot. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. The president and the executive secretary shall prepare the order of business.

¶ 1433. The president shall be a presiding, not an administrative, officer. The treasurer, who shall be adequately bonded, shall deposit the funds of the board in a designated depository.

¶ 1434. There shall be an **executive committee** of the board, of which the president shall be a member, which shall be chosen by the board on nomination of the nominating committee. The executive committee shall meet on the call of the president or of one third of its members and shall transact all necessary business of the board *ad interim* under such regulations as the board may adopt. Its acts shall be reported in writing to the members of the board. The executive committee shall act as the finance committee of the board and shall prepare and recommend to the Jurisdictional Conference a quadrennial budget which shall include all the financial needs of the board.

¶ 1435. The board shall elect quadrennially from its membership, on nomination of the nominating committee, two standing committees of such number as the board may determine, as follows:

1. The **Committee on Educational Institutions**, which shall study the needs of the institutions within the jurisdiction, shall hear the recommendations of the executive secretary, and shall make recommendations to the board.
2. The **Committee on the Local Church**, which shall study the educational and curriculum needs of local churches and of Conference Boards of Education, shall con-

sider the recommendations of the executive secretary, and shall make recommendations to the board.

¶ 1436. The **executive secretary** shall have responsibility for the general oversight and promotion of all the work of the board and for the supervision of its salaried workers. On nomination of the executive secretary such other salaried workers as the board may deem necessary shall be elected. Due consideration shall be given to the need for specialized leadership in college institutional promotion and in the field of work with children, with youth, including student religious activities, with adults, and in the areas of Christian family life, missions and social problems, extension work in rural areas, and leadership education, as well as for the circulation of church-school literature approved by the General Board of Education. All salaried officers shall attend the meetings of the jurisdictional board and shall have all the rights of members except the privilege of voting. Annual Conference executive secretaries who are not members of the jurisdictional board may attend the meetings of the board as visitors. The executive secretary shall make a full report to the board annually, and to each of the three general secretaries of the General Board of Education. Other salaried workers shall report as may be required to the executive secretary.

¶ 1437. The executive secretary of the board shall prepare a report of its proceedings and submit it to the Jurisdictional Conference. Each Jurisdictional Conference shall set apart a session at which the interests of Christian education shall be emphasized. Immediately following the session of the Jurisdictional Conference, the board, through its executive secretary, shall report to the general secretaries of the three divisions of the General Board of Education a summary of its acts and the names of its officers and salaried workers and such other information as may be required by the general board.

¶ 1438. The board shall have authority to co-operate with other jurisdictional boards in matters of common interest. It shall also have authority to co-operate with interchurch organizations and agencies. Each Annual

Conference shall determine for itself to what extent it will co-operate with these agencies within its own territory. The board shall have authority to co-operate with the General and Annual Conference Boards of Education and other agencies in the promotion and holding of the Methodist Conference on Christian Education. (See ¶ 1400.)

¶ 1439. The sources of income of the board shall be as follows: (1) gifts from interested people; (2) apportionments allotted to the churches within the jurisdiction for the work of the board; (3) such percentage of the total amount raised for missions by the church schools within the jurisdiction as the General Conference may direct.

SEC. XI.

Annual Conference Boards

¶ 1441. In each Annual Conference there shall be a **Conference Board of Education**, elected by the conference to promote church-school extension, the program of Christian education, and the use of church-school literature approved by the General Board of Education. Each conference shall set apart a portion of a session in which the interests of Christian education shall be adequately considered.

¶ 1442. The board shall be responsible for developing and promoting a conference program of Christian education which will provide guidance and help for all the agencies of Christian education within the bounds of the conference, such as: the Commissions on Education in local churches and the related agencies of Christian education (see ¶¶ 241, 243), leadership training schools, Bible conferences, camps, assemblies, institutes and other educational agencies, all institutions of higher education related to the conference, Wesley Foundations, and the Methodist Student Movement. The board should be incorporated under the laws of the state (or all of the states) within whose bounds the conference is located. The board may receive gifts for its work. It may hold title to property for use in its work, such as offices for its headquarters, camp sites and buildings, office and camp equipment, audio-visual equipment, automobiles for use of its staff

and other equipment necessary for the successful prosecution of its work. It shall report to each session of the conference on the legal and financial status and physical condition of all such property.

¶ 1443. The board shall be composed of: (1) an equal number of laymen and ministers elected quadrennially, the number and manner of election to be determined by the conference; (2) the president of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship and three other young people, twenty-three years of age or younger at the time of their election, two of whom shall be chosen by the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship and the other chosen by the board from nominations from state or regional student organization or organizations operating within the conference territory; *provided* that in event of a change in the president of the youth fellowship the current president shall be the representative; and *provided*, further, that if any of the three youth representatives attain their twenty-fourth birthday during the quadrennium, the period of service on the board shall terminate at the beginning of the session of the Annual Conference next following, and they shall be succeeded by other youth representatives chosen as they were; (3) one certified director of Christian education employed in a local church within the conference; and (4) additional members, either clerical or lay, nominated at any time during the quadrennium by the board in such numbers as it may deem advisable, for election by the conference. Vacancies in the elected membership between conference sessions may be filled by the executive committee of the board pending the action of the next conference session. Care shall be taken to elect persons who are qualified for the work of the board by experience in educational institutions and in the local church, and by training and interest. No salaried officer or employee of the board shall be a member. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The members shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

¶ 1444. The officers of the board shall be a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, a treasurer, elected quadrennially, and an executive secretary (who may serve

two or more contiguous conferences), elected by the board after consultation with the bishop and his Cabinet and confirmed by the conference; *provided* that in the filling of a vacancy which occurs between conference sessions the approval of the conference shall not be required for the interim period. The retiring board shall complete the business and make its annual report to the conference. The retiring board shall make such recommendations as it may desire to the new board, which board shall take charge immediately upon its organization and shall make recommendations to the conference.

¶ 1445. Organization of the new board shall be effected at the beginning of the quadrennium in the following way: The bishop shall appoint a convener, who shall assemble the board to effect a permanent organization.

¶ 1446. The president shall be a presiding, not an administrative, officer. The treasurer, who shall be adequately bonded, shall receive, and receipt for, all funds of the board and disburse them by check as ordered by the board. All checks must be countersigned by the executive secretary or some other person duly authorized by the board.

¶ 1447. There shall be an **executive committee** of the board, of which the president shall be a member. The executive committee shall meet on the call of the president or of one third of the members, and shall transact all necessary business of the board *ad interim*, under such regulations as the board may adopt. Its acts shall be reported to the annual meeting of the board. The executive committee shall act as the finance committee of the board, and shall prepare a statement of its financial needs for the next year.

¶ 1448. The **executive secretary** shall have responsibility for the general oversight and promotion of all the work of the board and for the direction and supervision of its salaried and volunteer workers. He shall give leadership and direction to the program of Christian education in the local churches; give active co-operation to the Methodist schools, colleges, and universities within the conference; through the Interconference Commission on

Student Religious Work assist in supporting the Wesley Foundations and co-ordinating the intercollegiate program of the Methodist Student Movement within the state or region; and help to integrate the work of Christian education as undertaken by the local church and by the schools and colleges. On nomination of the executive secretary, such other salaried and volunteer workers as the board may deem necessary shall be elected annually. He shall consult with the responsible officers of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship before nominating conference directors of youth work, and with each district superintendent before reporting to the board for confirmation by the Annual Conference the persons who with the district superintendent shall constitute the district staff of Christian education: district director of adult work, district director of youth work, district director of children's work, district director of general church-school work, and such other workers as may be desired. The executive secretary shall make a full report annually both to the board and to each of the three general secretaries of the General Board of Education. Workers, salaried or volunteer, shall report as may be required to the executive secretary. The executive secretary shall consult with the Interconference Commission on Student Religious Work about the duties and relation to the conference staff of the state or regional director of student work.

¶ 1449. The board shall report its proceedings and policies to the Annual Conference, including the treasurer's report, showing all resources and liabilities of the board, its income and its expenditures. Immediately following the conference session it shall report to the Jurisdictional Board of Education, through its executive secretary, a summary of its acts and the names of its officers and salaried workers. It shall transmit to the jurisdictional board the names and addresses of church-school superintendents and the officers of the district and conference organizations operating under the conference board and of youth assemblies and other organizations.

¶ 1450. The president, or someone designated by him,

shall present to the Commission on World Service and Finance of the conference the financial needs of the colleges and Wesley Foundations related to the conference, of the work of the board in its field program of Christian education in the local churches of the conference, and of other work in which the board may be engaged. In accordance with the financial plan of the church, an apportionment shall be allotted to the churches within the conference for the work of the Conference Board of Education. Other sources of income shall be gifts, returns from special days, and receipts from missionary offerings in the church school. The board shall determine the distribution of the funds thus received to each of the general interests under the care of the board.

¶ 1451. 1. It shall be the duty of the board to determine whether applicants meet the standards of the General Board of Education for directors of Christian education (¶¶ 247, 1401 § 2) and ministers of music (¶ 1401 § 3), and to certify and keep a record of those who do. The board shall set up a committee or committees on directors of Christian education and ministers of music whose duties shall be: (a) to review the credentials of candidates for these offices and make recommendations to the board for certification in harmony with the said standards; and (b) to recommend to the board plans for institutes, conferences, and other occasions for fellowship and training for directors of Christian education and educational assistants, and for ministers of music and others responsible for music in the local church. Whenever possible one or more directors of Christian education and ministers of music shall serve on this committee. All persons certified shall furnish to the board, on blanks provided by the general board, information for purposes of annual review and approval of status.

2. A roster of certified directors of Christian education and certified ministers of music shall be included in the annual report of the board and published in the conference journal. A person so certified may move to another Annual Conference and be recorded there without re-establishing status.

3. Certified directors of Christian education may be consecrated and commissioned at a conference session or other suitable time. (See ¶ 1926.)

¶ 1452. The board may constitute a **Conference Committee on Family Life** composed of the executive secretary and two members of the board; the conference directors of children's, youth, and adult work; the president of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship; the secretary of Christian social relations of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service; the conference lay leader; and one district superintendent elected by the Cabinet. Special resource persons may be added as the committee shall determine. Its duty shall be to study the forces which affect family life within the conference and recommend to the board program plans to strengthen family life. It shall be administratively related to the board and shall report to it annually. (See ¶¶ 234, 1417.)

¶ 1453. For description of the program for Church School Rally Day, Methodist Student Day, and Race Relations Sunday see ¶ 250 §§ 2-4.

¶ 1454. For the constitution of the Commission on Town and Country Work see ¶ 1231.

¶ 1455. The board shall have authority to co-operate with other conference boards in matters of common interest. It shall also have authority to co-operate with the General and Jurisdictional Boards of Education and other agencies in the holding of the Methodist Conference on Christian Education. (See ¶ 1400.)

CHAPTER IX

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

SECTION I. The Aim of Evangelism

¶ 1464. The aim of evangelism is to bring all men into living, active fellowship with God through Jesus Christ as divine Saviour and through the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit; to gather them into the fellowship

of the Church; to lead them to express their Christian discipleship in every area of human life that the Kingdom of God may be realized.

SEC. II.

Incorporation

¶ 1465. There shall be an incorporated **General Board of Evangelism** of The Methodist Church, hereinafter called the board. It shall be incorporated under the laws of the state in which its headquarters are established by the General Conference; or the present Tennessee charter of incorporation of the Commission on Evangelism may be amended.

SEC. III.

Constitution

¶ 1466. *Article 1. Name and Object.*—The name of this organization shall be the General Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church. Its objects are religious, evangelistic, designed to diffuse the blessings of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by the promotion and support of all forms and phases of evangelism; to promote evangelistic intelligence, interest, and zeal throughout the membership of The Methodist Church; to promote the practice of intercession and of individual and family worship; and to stimulate the entire membership of the church in worship and in Christian service.

¶ 1467. *Art. 2. Authority.*—The board shall have authority to regulate its own proceedings in accordance with its constitution and charter; to buy, acquire, receive by gift, devise, or bequest, property, real, personal, and mixed, and to hold, sell, and dispose of property; to secure, appropriate, and administer funds for its work; to sue and be sued; to elect the necessary officers and members of its staff, remove them for cause, and fill vacancies; to make by-laws in harmony with the Discipline of The Methodist Church and the charter of the board; and shall have the right to do any and all things which shall be authorized by its charter; *provided that*, in cases of devises or gifts of real estate to this board in states where such devises or gifts are not valid when made to religious corporations, the board shall be empowered to name trustees for the purpose of receiving

and taking title to such gifts or devises for the benefit of the board.

¶ 1468. *Art. 3. Membership.*—The membership of the board shall be composed of seven bishops of The Methodist Church, one from each jurisdiction and one from the church at large, elected by the Council of Bishops at the time of the General Conference; two ministers, one lay man, and one lay woman from each jurisdiction, elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences; twelve members from the church at large, elected by the board; and the chairman of the program area of Christian witness of the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission and two other youth members, twenty-three years of age or under at the time of their election, elected by the board on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, which, in consultation with the appropriate staff of the board, shall have considered suggestions for nominations by Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships and state or regional units of the Methodist Student Movement. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled as provided in ¶ 1105, except those occurring among youth members, which shall be filled by the board on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth.

¶ 1469. *Art. 4. Chairman.*—The chairman of the board shall be the bishop selected by the Council of Bishops from the church at large and shall serve for the quadrennium. He shall make a report and present a program of work for the board to the Council of Bishops for their approval at each regular meeting of the council.

¶ 1470. *Art. 5. Other Officers.*—The board shall elect from its membership a vice-chairman, a recording secretary, and an **executive committee** of seven members, including the chairman of the board, the other six members to be selected by the board, one from each jurisdiction of the church. A treasurer shall be elected by the board and shall be a member of the staff.

¶ 1471. *Art. 6. Executive Officers.*—The board shall elect a **general secretary** and, on nomination by the executive committee, shall elect such other secretaries, directors, and editors as may be needed.

¶ 1472. *Art. 7. Financial Support.*—The financial sup-

port of the general work of the board shall be derived from the general benevolence funds of the church, and that of *The Upper Room* as provided for in ¶ 1485.

¶ 1473. *Art. 8. Meetings.*—The board shall hold an annual meeting and such other meetings as it may deem necessary for the accomplishment of the work.

¶ 1474. *Art. 9. Duties.*—1. The board shall give particular emphasis to the promotion of full, well-rounded, and practical programs of evangelism on the conference, district, and local-church levels. To this end it shall give guidance and help to the Jurisdictional Boards of Evangelism, the Conference Boards of Evangelism, the District Committees on Evangelism, and the Commissions on Membership and Evangelism in local churches. (See ¶ 119.) The board shall give guidance to the church in using the appropriate days and seasons of the Christian calendar for special evangelistic emphasis.

2. The board shall set up standards for **conference evangelists** and shall make these standards known to the church at large. It shall send copies of the standards annually to the bishops, the district superintendents, the Conference Boards of Evangelism, and the Association of Conference Evangelists. It shall provide uniform report blanks for the use of the conference evangelist in reporting to the Annual Conference. It shall supervise the work of the Association of Conference Evangelists.

3. For the responsibility of the board in producing and distributing literature for the cultivation of the devotional life see ¶ 1485.

¶ 1475. *Art. 10. Co-operation.*—The board shall co-operate with the various agencies of the church in the training of our ministers for leadership in the field of evangelism and in creating a literature to serve the cause of evangelism. (For interboard agencies on which the Board of Evangelism is represented see ¶¶ 1160, 1230, 1289, 1415, 1417, 1418.)

SEC. IV. Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism

¶ 1476. Each Jurisdictional Conference may have a **Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism**, which shall pro-

mote the program of evangelism in the jurisdiction in co-operation with the General Board of Evangelism.

¶ 1477. Each jurisdictional board shall include in its membership all members of the general board who reside within the bounds of the jurisdiction, and the secretary of spiritual life of the Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service. Further organization and financial support of the jurisdictional board shall be left with the Jurisdictional Conferences.

SEC. V. Annual Conference Board of Evangelism

¶ 1478. 1. Each Annual Conference shall elect for the quadrennium a **Conference Board of Evangelism**, which shall plan and promote a program of evangelism throughout the conference. It shall give guidance to the District Committees on Evangelism and to local-church Commissions on Membership and Evangelism in carrying out their purposes and responsibilities, as outlined in ¶ 222; and it shall co-operate with the general and jurisdictional boards in promoting evangelistic plans and programs.

2. The board shall include in its membership the district superintendents, the district secretaries of evangelism, the vice-chairmen of the District Committees on Evangelism, one pastor from each district, such members of the jurisdictional board as reside within the bounds of the conference, the secretary of spiritual life of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, the conference secretary of evangelism, and the chairman of the program area of Christian witness of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship, together with such further organization as the conference may desire; *provided* that no salaried officer, employee, or one receiving remuneration from the board shall be a member thereof.

¶ 1479. Each Annual Conference, on nomination of its Board of Evangelism, shall elect annually a **conference secretary of evangelism**, to be publicly assigned by the bishop, who shall promote the policies and program of the General, Jurisdictional, and Conference Boards of Evangelism in the Annual Conference.

¶ 1480. The board may recommend to the Annual Conference and to the bishop in charge the appointment of

certain effective members of the conference as **conference evangelists**; *provided* that such persons shall meet the standards set up by the general board and the conference board for conference evangelists (¶ 1474 § 2).

SEC. VI. District Committee on Evangelism

¶ 1481. Each district of each Annual Conference shall provide a **District Committee on Evangelism**, which shall promote the program of evangelism as outlined by the General Board and in co-operation with the Conference Board of Evangelism.

¶ 1482. The committee shall include in its membership such members of the conference board as reside within the bounds of the district, the secretary of spiritual life of the District Woman's Society of Christian Service, the district superintendent, and also three pastors, three lay men, three lay women, and three youth members elected by the District Conference or, if no District Conference is held, appointed by the district superintendent.

¶ 1483. There shall be a **district secretary of evangelism** in each district, nominated by the district superintendent and publicly assigned by the bishop. He shall be chairman of the committee, and a layman selected by the district superintendent shall be vice-chairman. The chairman and vice-chairman shall work in co-operation with the district superintendent, the conference board, and the conference secretary of evangelism.

SEC. VII. Local-Church Commission

¶ 1484. Each local church shall have a Commission on Membership and Evangelism. (See ¶¶ 219-22, under Part II, The Local Church.)

SEC. VIII. The Upper Room

¶ 1485. The General Board of Evangelism is hereby instructed to assume the management and publication of **The Upper Room** and to produce and distribute such literature as that now represented by *The Upper Room* for the cultivation of the devotional life; *provided*, however, that no funds either now in hand or hereafter accumulated by *The Upper Room* or other devotional and

related literature hereafter produced shall be used for the support of other features of the board's work, but all net income from the sale of such publications shall be conserved by the board for the purpose of preparing and circulating such literature; *provided*, however, that this shall not prevent the setting up of a reserve fund out of such produce as a protection against unforeseen emergencies.

CHAPTER X

BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES

SECTION I. The General Board

¶ 1490. The purpose of the **Board of Lay Activities** shall be to deepen the spiritual life of the lay members of the church and to cultivate among them an increasing loyalty and interest that they may become an active working force in each local church.

¶ 1491. The board shall be composed of three effective bishops, elected by the Council of Bishops; six effective ministers, one from each jurisdiction; and thirty-two lay members, distributed among the several jurisdictions on the basis of church membership; *provided* that no jurisdiction shall have fewer than two lay members. The six ministers and the thirty-two lay members shall be elected by the Jurisdictional Conferences on nomination of the Committees on Lay Activities of the Jurisdictional Conferences; *provided* that the lay members shall be selected from the conference lay leaders of the several Annual Conferences in the jurisdiction; and *provided*, further, that retirement from the office of conference lay leader shall automatically vacate membership on the board. The headquarters of the board shall be fixed by the General Conference. The board shall be duly incorporated.

¶ 1492. The board shall promote a program of lay activities which shall include:

1. Christian stewardship.
2. Christian fellowship.

3. Personal evangelism.
4. Lay speaking or preaching.
5. The circulation of church papers and other Christian literature.
6. The benevolences.
7. Adequate support of the ministry.
8. Sound church finance in the local church.
9. Attendance upon worship services.
10. Men's work.
11. The training of Official Boards.
12. The Christianizing of personal and community life.
13. Co-operation with other general boards and agencies.
14. District and conference lay organizations to make more effective the entire program of lay activities.

¶ 1493. To further the work of lay activities, one Sunday each year shall be designated as **Laymen's Day**, the program to be under the direction of the General Board of Lay Activities. The official date for Laymen's Day shall be the date approved by the General Division of United Church Men of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America as a joint observance by the constituent denominations; *provided* that this designation of a date shall not apply to conferences outside the United States.

¶ 1494. The board shall elect a **general secretary**, who shall have general supervision of the work under the direction of the board, and who shall be subject to the authority and control of the board. On nomination of the general secretary, such other staff members as the board deems necessary shall be elected by the board. The board shall have authority to fill vacancies in office occurring *ad interim*, including that of the general secretary.

¶ 1495. The board is authorized to solicit and create special funds, to receive gifts and bequests, to hold properties and securities in trust, and to administer all these financial affairs in accordance with its own rules and the provisions of the Discipline.

¶ 1496. The work of the board shall be considered a benevolence interest of the church, and the Council on World Service and Finance shall include in the appropriations recommended for adoption by the General Con-

ference such sum as may be necessary for the proper support of the board. The board shall report to the council its estimate of the amount needed annually for its work.

¶ 1497. The board shall be organized by the election of a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer. It shall have authority to regulate its own proceedings, including the fixing of the time for its annual sessions. All officers and members of the board shall remain in office until their successors are duly elected and qualified, following which the new board shall be organized. The new board shall elect its own officers, including the general secretary and other staff members. It shall report quadrennially to the General Conference and to the several Jurisdictional Conferences.

SEC. II.

Jurisdictional Boards

¶ 1498. There may be in every jurisdiction a **Jurisdictional Board of Lay Activities**, auxiliary to the general board, composed of the conference lay leaders of the several Annual Conferences in the jurisdiction; two effective bishops; and three effective ministers, one of whom shall be a member of the general board, elected by the Jurisdictional Conference on nomination of the Committee on Lay Activities.

¶ 1499. Within the jurisdiction this board shall promote the program of lay activities as outlined by the general board under the authority of the General Conference.

¶ 1500. The Jurisdictional Conference may elect a **secretary of lay activities**, who shall have general supervision of the work in the jurisdiction under the direction of the board, and who shall be subject to the authority and control of the board. The board shall have authority to fill vacancies in office occurring *ad interim*, including that of secretary.

¶ 1501. The work of the board shall be considered a benevolence interest of the church within the jurisdiction, and there shall be included in the appropriations recommended for adoption by the Jurisdictional Conference such sum as may be necessary for the support of the board. The board shall report to the proper jurisdictional

body its estimate of the amount needed annually for its work.

¶ 1502. The board shall be organized by the election of a president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer. It shall have authority to regulate its own proceedings. It shall report quadrennially to the Jurisdictional Conference.

SEC. III. Annual Conference Boards

¶ 1503. There shall be in every Annual Conference a **Conference Board of Lay Activities**, composed of the conference lay leader, who shall be chairman, the district lay leader and the associate district lay leaders from each district, and the district superintendents. The board shall elect a vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer.

¶ 1504. The board shall carry out the program of lay activities outlined under the direction of the General and Jurisdictional Boards of Lay Activities, and also co-operate with the other conference boards in executing their plans for larger service in the work of the church. It shall report to the Annual Conference, and shall hold an anniversary, or otherwise provide for an adequate representation of the work of lay activities, during the session of the conference.

¶ 1505. The board shall hold an annual meeting in connection with the Annual Conference session and such other meetings as may be deemed advisable by the board and on the call of the chairman.

¶ 1506. The board shall estimate annually the amount necessary for the support of its work and report this amount to the Commission on World Service and Finance for its consideration and recommendation to the Annual Conference.

¶ 1507. 1. The **conference lay leader** shall be elected annually by the Annual Conference on nomination of the board, which nomination shall be by ballot.⁵ An interim vacancy may be filled by the board.

2. The conference lay leader shall be seated in the Annual Conference, but without vote unless he is otherwise a member.

⁵ See Judicial Council Decision 77.

3. As the executive officer of the board the conference lay leader shall give direction to its work, confer with the bishop and correlate the work of the board with all other activities within the conference, make a written report to the board at its regular session, and make a comprehensive report to the general board following the close of the conference year, which shall include the names and correct addresses of the district, associate district, and church lay leaders of the several districts and local churches.

SEC. IV.

District Boards

¶ 1508. There shall be in every district a **District Board of Lay Activities**, composed of the district lay leader, who shall be chairman, two or more associate district lay leaders, the district superintendent, the church lay leader of each local church, and the president of each chartered Methodist Men club.

¶ 1509. The board shall co-operate with the conference board in promoting the program of lay activities outlined under the direction of the General, Jurisdictional, and Conference Boards of Lay Activities.

¶ 1510. 1. The **district lay leader** and the associate district lay leaders shall be elected annually by the Annual Conference on nomination of the district superintendents and the conference lay leader; *provided* that, where the conference so determines, the nominations may be made by the board. The board shall have authority to fill interim vacancies; *provided* that, where the conference so determines, the conference lay leader and the district superintendent shall have authority to fill such vacancies.

2. As the executive officer of the board the district lay leader shall give direction to its work. He shall make a written report to each regular meeting of the board and to the District Conference, and a detailed report to the conference lay leader at the close of the conference year, which shall include the names and correct addresses of the associate district lay leaders and all the church lay leaders of the district.

3. The associate district lay leaders shall co-operate

with the district lay leader in the work of lay activities as the board may direct.

4. The district and associate district lay leaders shall confer at least quarterly with the district superintendent regarding the promotion of lay activities and the correlation of the work with all other activities within the district.

SEC. V.

Methodist Men

¶ 1511. The General Board of Lay Activities shall give special consideration to men's work, correlating it with the total program of lay activities. **Methodist Men** shall be the duly authorized organization for this purpose. The board shall have authority to promote and charter local units of Methodist Men and to affiliate with the movement other existing men's organizations in the local church. Larger units—such as county, subdistrict, metropolitan area, or district units—may be chartered by the board for the purpose of promoting units in the local churches and as a means of developing a wider fellowship of service, in co-operation with the district lay leader, district superintendent, and conference lay leader. The board shall develop such organizational and administrative procedures as are necessary to meet the needs of an expanding fellowship of Christian service. (For the program of Methodist Men in the local church see ¶¶ 291-92.)

SEC. VI.

Christian Stewardship

¶ 1512. The General Board of Lay Activities is charged with the cultivation and promotion of Christian stewardship in The Methodist Church. It shall initiate plans, develop literature, and perfect organization to utilize effectively in the work of the church and in the development of Christian character this vital doctrine of Christian faith and practice.

¶ 1513. The study, practice, and promotion of Christian stewardship are essential to the highest individual holiness as well as the fullest realization of the Church's mission. The individual Christian must know, love, and

live the truth himself before he can lead others into the experience of "stewards of the manifold grace of God."

¶ 1514. God is the owner of all things. Man is a steward. God's ownership and man's stewardship ought to be acknowledged.

Stewardship is the practical expression of one's experience of God. Therefore, all one's life, all personal abilities, and all material resources constitute a gift from God, which should be used for his glory and for the welfare of mankind. This is central in Christian faith and should control and direct all one's being.

Stewardship involves both motives and methods in the production and acquisition of wealth, the service ideal in vocation and avocation, and the conservation of natural resources. It also governs motives and methods in the investment and expenditure of one's total material gains.

Christian experience demonstrates that the acknowledgment of God's ownership and man's stewardship should result in systematic, proportionate, and abundant giving. Tithing is commended as a historic and workable method attested by many Christians throughout centuries of religious custom and joyful experience.

Stewardship likewise requires the offering of oneself and the sharing of one's abilities in the work of the organized agencies of the church and community which serve Kingdom interests.

Christian stewardship inevitably expresses itself in one's daily economic experiences and in all life and service.

SEC. VII. Lay Activities in Local Churches

¶ 1515. For information on lay activities in local churches see Part II, The Local Church, especially the following: concerning the over-all program of lay activities, including the duties of church lay leaders and the program of Methodist Men, ¶¶ 286-92; concerning the promotion of Christian stewardship in the financial program of the local church, ¶¶ 262-63.

CHAPTER XI

INTERBOARD COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN
SOCIAL RELATIONS

§ 1516. There shall be an **Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations**, whose function shall be to act as the co-ordinator of the policies and activities of its boards, namely: the Board of Temperance, the Board of World Peace, and the Board of Social and Economic Relations.

§ 1517. The membership of the commission shall be composed of eighteen persons—six from each of the three boards, consisting of the chairman and five other persons from its executive committee elected by each board.

§ 1518. The commission, in carrying out its function of co-ordinating the work of the boards which it represents, shall see that plans and programs in the fields of temperance, peace, and social and economic relations do not overlap or duplicate in activity and literature. Any questions of overlapping or duplication of activities among the constituent boards which cannot be resolved by this commission shall be referred to the Co-ordinating Council. Any overlapping of functions or duplication of activities between one of the constituent boards and another agency of The Methodist Church shall be referred to the Co-ordinating Council. (See § 1115 § 1.) When in the judgment of the commission such action would facilitate co-ordination of its boards, it may authorize interboard staff committees.

§ 1519. Implementing the work of the commission there shall be a **secretarial council** consisting of the executive secretaries of the three boards. It shall be the function of this council to facilitate co-operation among the boards in the creative planning of programs and in avoiding overlapping of function or duplication of activity. The chairmanship of the secretarial council shall rotate annually among the three executive secretaries.

CHAPTER XII

BOARD OF TEMPERANCE

SECTION I.

Constitution

§ 1521. In order to make more effectual the efforts of The Methodist Church in creating a Christian public sentiment, in clarifying the thinking of the people of the nation concerning the nature and the effects of beverage alcohol, and in crystallizing apprehension of and opposition to all public violations of the moral law, there shall be a **Board of Temperance** with headquarters in Washington, D. C. The Board of Temperance, hereinafter referred to as the board, shall be incorporated in the District of Columbia under this title, and work under the following constitution:

§ 1522. The object and duty of this board shall be to promote by an intensive educational program, including publication and distribution of literature, voluntary total abstinence from all intoxicants and narcotics; to promote observance and enforcement of constitutional provisions and statutory enactments which suppress the traffic in alcoholic liquors and in narcotic drugs; and to aid and promote such legislation in townships, counties, villages, cities, states, and throughout the nation and the world. It shall be the object and duty of this board also actively to seek the suppression of salacious and corrupting literature and degrading amusements, lotteries, and other forms of gambling, and in every wise way to promote the public morals and the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

§ 1523. The board shall consist of one bishop from each jurisdiction, elected by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction; one minister and one lay person elected by each Jurisdictional Conference; and five members, at large, to be elected by the board.

§ 1524. If a vacancy occurs in the board by death or resignation, the board may fill it on nomination of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction in which the vacancy occurs, such elected member to serve until the meeting of

the next Jurisdictional Conference of which he is a member. Vacancies among members at large shall be filled by election by the board.

¶ 1525. 1. The officers of the board shall be a president, who shall be a bishop, one or two vice-presidents, a recording secretary, a treasurer and an assistant treasurer, a general secretary, and such other officers as the board may determine.

2. The board shall appoint an **executive committee**, which shall consist of the officers who are members of the board and seven additional members selected by the board. This committee shall have the power *ad interim* to fill any vacancies in the field and office staff and to transact such business as is necessary in the interim of the annual meetings and report its actions annually for confirmation by the board.

¶ 1526. The **general secretary** shall be elected quadrennially by the board, and shall be ex officio a member of the board and of the executive committee without vote (see ¶ 1103), and its executive officer. In the event of his death or resignation, the board shall have authority to fill the vacancy.

¶ 1527. 1. The board shall hold an annual meeting, on a date and at a place to be determined by its executive committee, and other meetings as its work may require, and shall enact suitable by-laws governing the activities of the board and its employees. A majority of the membership of the board shall constitute a quorum.

2. The board is authorized to solicit and create special funds; to receive gifts and bequests; to hold properties and securities in trust; and to administer all these financial affairs in accordance with its own rules and the provisions of the Discipline.

3. The board shall present quadrennially to the Council on World Service and Finance a statement of the amount required for its general expense and for the support of each department of its work. An apportionment to meet the approved needs shall be transmitted to the church by the council.

¶ 1528. To enlist Methodists and encourage others to commit themselves to personal abstinence from alcoholic

beverages, and to challenge church members to creative action for a sober home and social life, the first Sunday in December shall be observed each year as **Commitment Day**, to be promoted by the Board of Temperance through the Jurisdictional and the Annual Conference Boards of Temperance. Because it shall be primarily a spiritual observance, it is suggested that no special temperance offerings be received on that day. (See ¶ 296 § 2e.)

SEC. II.

Jurisdictional Boards

¶ 1529. There may be in each jurisdiction a **Jurisdictional Board of Temperance**, hereinafter called the board, auxiliary to the General Board of Temperance. The board shall have headquarters to be located by the Jurisdictional Conference. If and when established, the board shall be composed of all the active bishops of the jurisdiction and eighteen other members, six of whom shall be ministers and twelve laymen, five of whom shall be men and five women, elected by the Jurisdictional Conference on nomination of the Committee on Temperance, and two of whom shall be youth, under twenty-three years of age at the time of their election, elected by the board on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth. The committee shall have as a basis of choice one minister and two lay members from each Annual Conference of the jurisdiction, who shall be nominated by the Annual Conference on the recommendation of the General Board of Temperance. Members of the general board resident in the jurisdiction shall be ex officio members of the jurisdictional board.

¶ 1530. The board shall elect a president, vice-president, and recording secretary at its first meeting following the meeting of the Jurisdictional Conference. It shall have an **executive committee** of seven members, whose duties shall be determined by the board. The board shall meet annually at a time and place to be designated by its executive committee. Nine members shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1531. In case special conditions should develop which, in the judgment of a jurisdictional board, would justify employment of a jurisdictional secretary for a particular

time and purpose, such employment may be made, subject to the approval of the general board.

SEC. III. Annual Conference Boards

¶ 1532. Each Annual Conference shall elect, on nomination of the Cabinet, or otherwise as the conference may direct, a **Conference Board of Temperance**, consisting of not less than ten and no more than eighteen members, with equal representation of ministers and lay members, and including any members of the general and jurisdictional boards residing within the bounds of the conference. The lay members shall include two youth, under twenty-three years of age at the time of their election, nominated by the council of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship, one nominee being its chairman of the program area of Christian citizenship, and also the secretary of Christian social relations of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service or her representative; and the remainder shall consist of an equal number of men and women. Its duty shall be to promote the work of the general board within the bounds of the conference. It shall have power to elect its own officers, including a chairman, who shall be responsible for direction of the program of temperance in the conference, and to raise its own funds; *provided* that no funds collected for the general board shall be allocated to the conference board except by action of the general board. (See ¶ 678.)

¶ 1533. The board shall estimate annually the amount necessary for the support of its work and report this amount to the Commission on World Service and Finance for its consideration and recommendation to the conference, with proper consideration of the need for an active Methodist program of alcohol-narcotic education in the churches of the conference. It is recommended that at least fifty per cent of the budget be used for this purpose. The work of the board shall be considered a benevolence interest of the church within the conference.

¶ 1534. There shall be a **district director of temperance** in each district, appointed by the district superintendent and publicly assigned by the bishop, to carry forward the work of temperance.

¶ 1535. For the program of the Board of Temperance in the local church see ¶¶ 276, 278 § 2.

CHAPTER XIII

BOARD OF WORLD PEACE

¶ 1536. There shall be a **Board of World Peace**, which shall be composed of three bishops, elected by the Council of Bishops; one minister and one layman from each jurisdiction, elected by the Jurisdictional Conference; three ministers and three laymen elected at large by the Council of Bishops; and two youth members, under twenty-three years of age at the time of their election, elected by the board on nomination of the National Conference of Methodist Youth. The Division of World Missions, the Division of National Missions, and the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions; the three divisions of the Board of Education; the Board of Lay Activities; and the Board of Evangelism shall be represented on the board by the general secretary of each, or someone delegated by him, as an advisory member without vote. The board is authorized also to elect consultants and correspondents in conferences outside the United States. Members shall hold office until their successors are duly appointed or elected. The board is authorized to fill vacancies occurring in the elected membership during the quadrennium.

¶ 1537. It shall be the purpose of the Board of World Peace to advance the interests of the Kingdom of our Lord through international justice and the spirit of good will throughout the world; to endeavor to create the will to peace, the conditions for peace, and the organization for peace; and to organize effective action in the church for the advancement of peace.

¶ 1538. The board shall meet at such times during the quadrennium as it may deem advisable to give consideration to its program.

¶ 1539. The work of the board shall be supported from the general benevolences of the church, the amount to be determined by the General Conference, on recommendation of the Council on World Service and Finance.

¶ 1540. The board shall have authority to elect a **general secretary** and such assistants as in its judgment may be necessary. Vacancies in the staff organization shall be filled by the board.

¶ 1541. The Jurisdictional Conference may elect a **Jurisdictional Committee on World Peace**, auxiliary to the board.

¶ 1542. Each Annual Conference shall elect a **Conference Committee on World Peace**, auxiliary to the jurisdictional committee and to the board, to promote the work of world peace within the boundaries of the conference. The committee shall elect its own officers. It shall co-operate and consult with other committees engaged in educational work within the conference and shall report each year to the Annual Conference in such manner as the conference may direct. (See ¶ 678.)

¶ 1543. Each local church may provide for the promotion of world peace, including the observance of World Order Sunday, through a Church Committee on World Peace, which shall report to the Official Board. (See ¶¶ 276, 278 § 7.)

¶ 1544. The Board of World Peace may establish such advisory or co-operative relationships with the Board of Education, the Board of Missions, and other agencies of the church as may be mutually agreed upon.

CHAPTER XIV

BOARD OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

¶ 1546. There shall be a **Board of Social and Economic Relations**, which shall be composed of one bishop from each jurisdiction, elected by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction; one minister and one lay person for each 600,000 members, or major fraction thereof, in the

jurisdiction, elected by each Jurisdictional Conference on nomination of its nominating committee; and one youth (eighteen to twenty-three years of age) elected by each Jurisdictional Conference on nomination of its nominating committee from nominations submitted by the Annual Conferences or the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowships of the jurisdiction; *provided* that the lay representation from each jurisdiction shall be divided, as nearly as possible, between men and women; and *provided*, further, that there shall be a minimum of one minister, one lay man, one lay woman, and one youth from each jurisdiction. The board may invite representatives from other agencies within the church to meet with it as advisory members, without vote.

¶ 1547. It shall be the function of the board to implement the actions of the General Conference and of the Methodist Social Creed (¶ 2020); to make available to the church membership resource material relating to the field of social and economic relations; to respond to requests of local-church groups for information and guidance; to encourage and stimulate interest and activity in the relation of the program of the church to social and economic problems; to establish "service projects" where Methodist youth may render Christian service and express their Christian convictions in pioneering and other endeavors at home and abroad, co-ordinating such work with other general agencies of the church (see ¶¶ 1169, 1405 § 2); and to work with other general agencies in stimulating Christian social thinking and action. This board shall work in co-operation with the Department of Christian Social Relations of the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

¶ 1548. The board shall elect a bishop as president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, and a treasurer, and such other officers as are necessary. These officers, with four other elected members of the board, shall constitute the **executive committee**. The recording secretary shall keep a permanent record of its meetings. Vacancies on the board shall be filled at any regular or duly called meeting of the board on nomination of the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction concerned. The **general secretary**

shall be elected by the board and serve ex officio. Staff personnel shall be approved by the executive committee on the nomination of the president and the general secretary.

¶ 1549. 1. The board shall meet annually, and at such other times as may be necessary, on the call of the president or on the written request of one fifth of its members.

2. The work of the board shall be supported from the general benevolences of the church, the amount to be determined by the General Conference, on recommendation of the Council on World Service and Finance.

¶ 1550. 1. Each Jurisdictional Conference may establish a **Jurisdictional Board of Social and Economic Relations**, auxiliary to the general board, such board to be composed of one bishop from the jurisdiction, chosen by the College of Bishops; one minister, one lay person, and one youth (eighteen to twenty-three years of age) from each area in the jurisdiction; and members of the general board located in the jurisdiction.

2. Each Annual Conference may establish a **Conference Board of Social and Economic Relations**, auxiliary to the jurisdictional board and the general board, which may report each year to the Annual Conference in such manner as the conference may direct. (See ¶ 678.)

3. Each local church may have a Committee on Social and Economic Relations or a Commission on Christian Social Relations. (See ¶¶ 276, 278 § 11.)

CHAPTER XV

BOARD OF HOSPITALS AND HOMES

SECTION I.

Constitution

¶ 1551. *Name and Purpose.*—There shall be a **Board of Hospitals and Homes** of The Methodist Church, which shall have an advisory relationship to Methodist philanthropic interests and institutions, such as hospitals, homes for the aged, homes for children, and homes for youth, located in the United States, its territories, and dependencies. This advisory relationship shall apply also to a

hospital or home which is owned or supervised by any agency of The Methodist Church in the United States, its territories, or dependencies.

¶ 1552. *Incorporation.*—The Board of Hospitals and Homes of The Methodist Church shall be duly incorporated according to the laws of Illinois. Its headquarters shall be located in the city of Chicago, state of Illinois.

¶ 1553. *Management.*—The management of the board shall be vested in a Board of Managers of eighteen: two bishops, elected by the Council of Bishops; one minister and one lay member from each jurisdiction, elected by the Jurisdictional Conference, at least one of whom shall be an active administrator of an institution under the general supervision of the board; and four members at large, elected by the board. All of the Board of Managers shall be members of The Methodist Church. Should a vacancy occur among those elected by the jurisdictions, the College of Bishops where such vacancy occurs shall elect the person to fill the unexpired term. All other vacancies shall be filled by the electing body.

¶ 1554. *Officers.*—1. The officers of the Board of Managers shall be a president, elected by said board from among the bishops who are members; four vice-presidents, each of whom shall represent one of the four major interests of this board, namely, hospitals, child welfare, homes for aged, homes for youth; a recording secretary; and a treasurer. All of these officers shall be elected by the board for the quadrennium. In addition there shall be such other officers and agents as the board may from time to time determine.

2. The board may elect a **general secretary** and provide for his salary and necessary help. This secretary shall be subject to the authority and control of the board.

¶ 1555. *Meetings.*—1. An annual meeting of the board shall be held at such time and place as the board may determine.

2. An **executive committee** of twelve members shall be elected by the board, such committee to include the officers of the board and five additional members to be elected by the board with the provision that each jurisdiction shall be represented on the committee by an elected member, the

general secretary being a member of the executive committee ex officio without vote (¶ 1103). Seven members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1556. *Affiliation.*—In order that Methodist philanthropic activities may be made scientific and Christian, hospitals or homes known as institutions of The Methodist Church and maintaining Christian standards or looking to Methodist constituency for support, and not affiliated with any other board of the church, shall be expected to affiliate with the Board of Hospitals and Homes.

¶ 1557. *Financial Support.*—Since the Board of Hospitals and Homes is empowered to act only in an advisory, educational, and co-operative capacity, its support shall be derived as follows: (a) from gifts, devises, wills, bequests, and from administration of trust funds; and (b) from such share in the general benevolences of the church as the General Conference may determine.

¶ 1558. *Powers.*—1. The board may make surveys, disseminate information, suggest plans for securing funds, maintain a bureau for the purpose of securing experts in all lines of work, provide architectural data, and render assistance, other than financial assistance, in the promotion and establishment of new institutions. It shall make appraisals and advise as to the validity and wisdom of accepting or rejecting institutions, such as hospitals or homes, to become beneficiaries in any way of the approval or support of The Methodist Church in any Annual Conference of the United States. It may suggest plans for Annual Conferences regarding their religious ministry to state and non-Methodist hospitals and homes needing such ministry.

2. The board shall formulate standards, spiritual, financial, and scientific, to protect the aims and ideals of The Methodist Church and shall encourage and assist institutions in attaining these standards.

3. The board is empowered to act as trustee for the administration of bequests or endowments for institutions of the church and, as a result of said trusts, to assist designated Christian social welfare work anywhere throughout the church.

4. As an advisory, standardizing, and educational agency of The Methodist Church, the board is empowered to prepare interpretative literature which can be used in a practical manner throughout the church for Golden Cross or other appeals.

5. The Board of Managers is authorized to organize committees, set up financial accounts, assist institutions in efforts to secure funds, and perform such other functions as the normal work of the board may require.

6. The Board of Hospitals and Homes shall not be responsible, legally or morally, for the debts, contracts, or obligations, or for any other financial commitments of any character or description, created, undertaken, or assumed by any institution, agency, or interest of The Methodist Church, whether or not such institution, agency, or interest shall be approved, accepted, or recognized by the board, or shall be affiliated with the board, or whether or not the promotion or establishment of the same shall be approved, under any of the provisions of this constitution, or otherwise. No such institution, agency, or interest of The Methodist Church, and no officer or member of the Board of Managers of this board, shall have any authority whatsoever to take any action, directly or by implication, at variance with, or deviating from, the limitation contained in the preceding sentence hereof.

SEC. II.

Golden Cross Society

¶ 1559. 1. There shall be a **Golden Cross Society** of The Methodist Church, which shall promote the hospitals and homes work under the direction of the Board of Hospitals and Homes and shall collect moneys and afford other material assistance in providing care for the sick, older persons, children, and youth. The enrollment in the Methodist Golden Cross Society shall be held annually in order to secure interest in, and support of, hospitals and homes in every congregation in such manner and on such date as determined by the patronizing Annual Conference or Conferences. The week following **Golden Cross Enrollment Sunday** shall be known as **Hospitals and Homes Week**. Funds raised through said enrollment shall be used as directed by the Annual Conference through its

Board of Hospitals and Homes, in keeping with the policies of said society.

2. The right of any Annual Conference to employ such methods for financing its philanthropic institutions as it may decide on is recognized, and the Board of Hospitals and Homes shall be available for advice and guidance.

SEC. III. Jurisdictional Boards

¶ 1560. There may be in each jurisdiction a **Jurisdictional Board of Hospitals and Homes** auxiliary to the general board, to be organized as the Jurisdictional Conference may determine.

SEC. IV. Annual Conference Boards

¶ 1561. 1. Each Annual Conference shall promote within its bounds a **Conference Board of Hospitals and Homes** composed as follows: (a) At least one ministerial and one lay member shall be elected from each district of the conference; *provided* that there shall be a minimum of four ministers and four lay members. (b) Any member of the general board within the conference shall be an *ex officio* member. (c) Administrators of hospitals and homes related to the conference shall be *ex officio* members, without vote.

2. The board shall meet at least once before or during each regular conference session and shall act in co-operation with the general board to promote the interest of the hospitals and homes within the bounds of the conference. It may aid in planning and developing a religious ministry, wherever practicable, in state and non-Methodist hospitals and homes needing such ministry. Where civil law requires the election of boards of trustees or managers by the Annual Conference, it may nominate the persons for such election.

3. The board shall organize with a chairman, who may become a voting member of the National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes under the payment of the personal membership dues of the association; and he shall be expected to take as much interest as possible in the program of Christian philanthropy in Methodism as represented by the association.

SEC. V. Local-Church Committees

¶ 1562. See ¶ 278 § 9 under Part 11, The Local Church.

SEC. VI. Sundry Provisions

¶ 1563. **Women's Auxiliaries** connected with the various philanthropic institutions of Methodism may be organized under, or given approval on compliance with, established standard requirements and procedures, such as the adoption of a constitution and by-laws fixing the identity, responsibility, and relationship of such organization as an auxiliary of a Methodist institution. Such an auxiliary, when so organized, and when request is made by the board of trustees of the institution which it represents, shall be granted a certificate of recognition from the Board of Hospitals and Homes.

¶ 1564. The board may organize a **Personnel Bureau**, under such rules and regulations as it may determine: (a) to help institutions of philanthropic service in The Methodist Church to find adequately trained Christian personnel to conduct the various types of work represented by Methodist hospitals and homes; (b) to encourage Methodist youth who are socially minded and who are desirous of investing their lives in some form of Christian institutional work; and (c) to co-operate in the work of the Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations (¶ 1415).

¶ 1565. There shall be organized a **National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes**, to be composed of the representatives of institutions and the presidents of jurisdictional and conference boards who are connected with Methodist philanthropy. This association shall have its own constitution and by-laws, shall meet in convention once a year, and shall establish its requirements for membership and have such membership dues as it may require. It shall work under the general direction of the Board of Hospitals and Homes, whose general secretary shall be an *ex officio* member of the association's executive committee. The aim and purpose of this association, in co-operation with the board, shall be to help lift the spiritual, scientific, and financial standards of our church hospitals and homes.

¶ 1566. The board shall cause to be established a **code of ethics** to serve as a standard and guide for service institutions of The Methodist Church in developing Christian and scientific characteristics.

¶ 1567. 1. There shall be a consultive interboard staff committee between the Woman's Division of Christian Service and the Board of Hospitals and Homes, established by these agencies.

2. There may be in each Annual Conference an interboard committee of ten persons, composed of five representatives elected by the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service and five representatives elected by the Conference Board of Hospitals and Homes, for co-operation in matters of mutual interest.

CHAPTER XVI

COMMISSION ON WORSHIP

¶ 1568. 1. There shall be a **Commission on Worship** composed of the book editor ex officio and two bishops, one minister and one lay person from each jurisdiction, and three members from the church at large elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Vacancies during the quadrennium shall be filled by the Council of Bishops.

2. The officers of the commission shall be a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary, elected quadrennially in such manner as it may determine.

3. The commission shall meet at least once a year, and at such other time as the commission and its officers shall determine.

4. The expense of the commission shall be borne by the General Administration Fund. The commission shall present a proposed budget to the Council on World Service and Finance for its consideration and action.

¶ 1569. The functions of the commission shall be:

1. To cultivate beauty, dignity, and meaning in the worship experience of the church.

2. To encourage by means of manuals and other publications, and by seminars, workshops, and other media, good taste and practice in the conduct of worship, church music, church architecture, and the use of the arts in the church.

3. When need arises, to prepare forms of worship and to revise existing orders of worship for recommendation to the General Conference.

4. To supervise future editions of *The Book of Worship for Church and Home*, as may be authorized by the General Conference.

5. To make recommendations to the General Conference concerning future editions of *The Methodist Hymnal*.

6. To advise with any of the general agencies of the church in the publication and circulation of any orders of service and other liturgical materials bearing the imprint of The Methodist Church.

7. To advise with official publications of the church concerning material offered in the fields of worship and liturgical arts.

8. To consult with the Television, Radio, and Film Commission on matters of joint concern.

9. To encourage in our schools of theology and pastors' schools the best possible instruction in the meaning and conduct of worship.

10. To advise with those responsible for planning the program of the General Conference and other general assemblies of the church regarding the worship services on these occasions.

11. To offer suggestions and direction to the Commissions on Worship of the various conferences and of the local churches. (See ¶ 274.)

12. To relate The Methodist Church to the Department of Worship and the Arts of the National Council of Churches and to the Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture.

¶ 1570. It shall be the purpose of the commission to enrich and not to govern the devotional life of the church, recalling our dual heritage of liturgical and free worship, and that "it is not necessary that rites and ceremonies should in all places be the same" (¶ 82).

CHAPTER XVII

COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS

¶ 1571. There shall be a **Commission on Chaplains**, which shall represent The Methodist Church in the recruitment, endorsement, and general oversight of all Methodist ministers serving as chaplains in the Armed Forces, Veterans Administration, and other federal agencies; in industry; and in state and local public and private institutions, other than those of The Methodist Church. The commission shall render such other services to these chaplains as may be referred to it by the Council of Bishops.

¶ 1572. The commission shall be composed of six bishops, one from each jurisdiction, and five ministers and five laymen, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Vacancies shall be filled by the Council of Bishops. A member bishop shall serve as chairman. The commission may elect advisory members, without vote, one from each department of the Armed Forces, from the Veterans Administration, and from other fields where Methodist chaplains are serving.

CHAPTER XVIII

INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON
CULTIVATION, PROMOTION,
AND PUBLICATION

¶ 1576. There shall be an **Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and Publication**, whose function shall be to act as the co-ordinator of the policies and activities of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, the Television, Radio, and Film Commission, the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, and the Board of Publication.

¶ 1577. The membership of the commission shall be composed of the following representatives from its constituent agencies: four members from the Commission on

Promotion and Cultivation, two from the Television, Radio, and Film Commission, one from the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, and two from the Board of Publication.

¶ 1578. The commission, in carrying out its function of co-ordinating the work of the agencies which it represents, shall see that plans and programs relating to cultivation, promotion, films, radio, television, public relations, Methodist information, and publishing do not overlap or duplicate. Any questions of overlapping or duplication which cannot be resolved by the commission shall be referred to the Co-ordinating Council. (See ¶ 1115 § 1.) When in the judgment of the commission such action would facilitate co-ordination among its agencies, it may authorize interboard staff committees.

¶ 1579. Implementing the work of the commission there shall be a **secretarial council**, consisting of the general secretary, or other representative of each constituent agency. It shall be the function of this council to facilitate co-operation among the agencies in the creative planning of their respective programs and in avoiding overlapping of function or duplication of activity. The chairmanship of the secretarial council shall rotate annually among its members.

CHAPTER XIX

COMMISSION ON PROMOTION AND CULTIVATION

¶ 1580. For the organization and functions of the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation see ¶¶ 750-55, under Part V, Temporal Economy.

CHAPTER XX

TELEVISION, RADIO AND FILM COMMISSION

¶ 1581. 1. There shall be an incorporated **Television, Radio, and Film Commission** of The Methodist Church. Its headquarters shall be in Nashville, Tennessee.

2. The membership shall consist of two bishops elected by the Council of Bishops; one person from each jurisdiction elected by its College of Bishops; the two general secretaries of the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation and one other representative elected by the Board of Missions; three elected by the Board of Education; two elected by the Board of Publication; one each elected by the Boards of Evangelism, Hospitals and Homes, Lay Activities, World Peace, Temperance, Social and Economic Relations, and Pensions, by the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, and by the American Bible Society; and five members at large elected by the commission.

3. Officers of the commission shall be a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, elected quadrennially in such manner as the commission may determine.

4. The purpose and function of the commission shall be:

a) To unify and co-ordinate the audio-visual programs of all Methodist agencies dealing with projected pictures, recordings, transcriptions, radio and television programs, and other audio-visual materials.

b) To make the studies necessary for the development of a unified and comprehensive program of resources to serve all age groups in the home, church, and community, and to represent the great causes of the church.

c) To produce and distribute such programs and materials in the area of the work of member agencies as the agencies may request and finance, and such other resources as are needed to serve the great causes of the church. In so far as practical the rental or sale of materials for Methodist use shall be handled through The Methodist Publishing House.

d) To represent The Methodist Church in the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches, and any other interdenominational agencies working in the area of mass communication.

e) To provide funds for scholarships, and other training opportunities, to prepare qualified persons for full-time Christian service in this field, and to provide training opportunities for ministers and lay leaders so that resources provided may be effectively used.

5. The financial support of the commission shall be determined as follows: The General Conference shall determine and provide from world service funds, on the recommendation of the Council on World Service and Finance, the budget of the commission. The budget shall include provision for necessary staff and administrative cost and such funds as may be deemed necessary to enable the commission to fulfill its stated functions. Additional contributions may be accepted from member agencies which are not supported by world service funds. (See ¶ 764.)

6. The General Conference, on recommendation of the Council on World Service and Finance and of the commission, shall allot such funds as it deems wise to the Broadcasting and Film Commission of the National Council of Churches. If this apportionment is included in a total church budget for the National Council of Churches, it shall be paid only after annual approval by the commission.

¶ 1582. There may be in each jurisdiction a **Jurisdictional Television, Radio, and Film Commission** auxiliary to the general commission.

¶ 1583. 1. There shall be a **Conference Television, Radio, and Film Commission** in each Annual Conference, which, in co-operation with the program boards, and other agencies in the conference, shall have for its purpose the promotion, use, and production of mass communications media, including radio, television, and audio-visual education materials and the training of selected persons in the local churches for effective use of these materials. It shall be related to the general commission and to jurisdictional and area organizations which have responsibility in this field.

2. The commission shall be composed of one district superintendent designated by the bishop; five persons whose experience and training qualify them for this service, elected by the conference; three members of the Conference Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, including the executive officer appointed by the commission; the executive officers of the Conference Boards of Education, Missions, and Evangelism; the presi-

dent of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service; and the conference lay leader. Any member of the general or jurisdictional commission residing within the bounds of the conference shall be an ex officio member.

3. The commission shall organize by electing a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

4. The commission may request funds from the conference through the Commission on World Service and Finance.

5. Where desired, the officers of the conference commissions within an episcopal area may, at the request of the bishop, function as an **Area Television, Radio, and Film Commission**.

CHAPTER XXI

COMMISSION ON PUBLIC RELATIONS AND METHODIST INFORMATION

¶ 1586. There shall be a **Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information**, which shall gather news of public interest concerning Methodist activities and opinion and disseminate it through the secular press, the religious press, radio, television, and other legitimate media of public information; *provided* that in its relations with the media it serves, and with the public generally, the commission may use such abbreviation of its name as it may deem appropriate. It shall be composed of nine persons, one of whom shall be a bishop, who shall act as chairman, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops. Care shall be taken to nominate persons whose experience in public relations, journalism, advertising, radio and television, business, or the church particularly qualifies them for this service. Vacancies occurring between sessions of the General Conference shall be filled by the commission. Members shall hold office until the next session of the General Conference, or until their successors are elected.

¶ 1587. The commission is authorized to employ a **general secretary**, who may be known as director, and

such other persons as may be necessary to give effect to its purpose.

¶ 1588. The expense of the commission shall be borne by the General Administration Fund. The commission shall present a proposed budget to the Council on World Service and Finance for its consideration and action.

¶ 1589. 1. The commission shall be the official general news gathering and distributing agency for The Methodist Church and its general agencies. It may arrange with other general agencies for some persons in those organizations to represent the commission in direct release of Methodist news items to the religious and/or secular press; but agencies which supported news gathering and distribution services during the 1948-52 quadrennium shall continue to provide for their budgets.

2. The commission shall have general supervision over planning public relations and procedures for making releases throughout the church in the United States. It may encourage and work with area and conference directors of public relations, may assist in pastors' schools and conduct seminars in public relations, and may prepare instruction materials for local-church use concerning public relations.

3. The commission shall maintain co-operative relationship with the editors of all boards and other agencies and editors of area and conference periodicals.

¶ 1590. There may be area, conference, district, and local-church Commissions or Committees on Public Relations and Methodist Information, to be constituted and organized as the respective governing bodies may determine. Such commissions or committees shall be related to the general commission.

CHAPTER XXII

ASSOCIATION OF METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

¶ 1591. 1. *Organization and Purpose.*—a) The Association of Methodist Historical Societies shall be a federation

of the Jurisdictional, Annual Conference, and other Historical Societies of The Methodist Church. It shall be affiliated with the International Methodist Historical Society.

b) Its purpose shall be to gather, preserve, and disseminate materials and facts on the history of Methodism, to co-operate with other bodies, especially the international society and the World Methodist Council, and to do any and all things necessary to the promotion and care of the historical interests of The Methodist Church. It shall maintain archives in which shall be preserved historical records and materials of every kind relating to The Methodist Church.

2. *Executive Committee.*—a) The activities of the association shall be directed by an **executive committee** designated quadrennially. It shall be composed of its own officers; the presidents or chairmen of the active jurisdictional societies recognized by Jurisdictional Conferences; the active officers of the International Methodist Historical Society and the World Methodist Council from The Methodist Church; the editor of *The New Christian Advocate*; and six additional persons appointed by the Council of Bishops because of their interest in and knowledge of Methodist history and their availability for meetings.

b) The executive committee shall meet on the call of the president and executive secretary. It shall hold an annual meeting, elect the officers, and exercise the authority usually incident to an executive body.

c) There shall be a subcommittee composed of the officers, which shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the executive committee between meetings.

d) The executive committee and subcommittee may vote by mail on any matter. Mail polls shall be carried out by the executive secretary, who shall state clearly the propositions to be voted on and announce the results to all the members.

3. *Officers.*—a) There shall be a president, two or more vice-presidents, an executive secretary, and a treasurer, all elected quadrennially.

b) These officers shall perform the duties usually incident to the positions. The executive secretary shall be

the executive and administrative officer and shall carry on all the work of the association, keep the records and minutes, and do the editorial work.

c) The executive committee may elect such other officers as may be needed and prescribe their duties.

4. *Finances.*—a) The association shall be financed by appropriations of the General Conference, the sale of literature and historical materials, and the gifts of interested individuals and groups.

b) The executive committee shall prepare an annual budget based on the expected income and shall prescribe the manner of its administration.

¶ 1592. There may be a **Jurisdictional Historical Society** in each jurisdiction, auxiliary to the Association of Methodist Historical Societies. The officers, members, duties, and support of each such society shall be determined by the Jurisdictional Conference.

¶ 1593. For description of the Historical Society in each Annual Conference see ¶ 663.

CHAPTER XXIII

COUNCIL OF SECRETARIES

¶ 1595. 1. There shall be a **Council of Secretaries**, whose membership shall consist of the chief executives of the following agencies: one each from the Divisions of World Missions and of National Missions and the Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, and three from the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Board of Missions; one from each division of the Board of Education; one each from the Boards of Temperance, Hospitals and Homes, Evangelism, Lay Activities, World Peace, Social and Economic Relations, and Pensions; and one each from The Methodist Publishing House, the Council on World Service and Finance, the Commission on Chaplains, the Television, Radio, and Film Commission, the American Bible Society, the Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, the Interboard Committee on Chris-

tian Vocations, the Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, the Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, and the Commission on Camp Activities.

2. The council shall meet periodically to consider matters of common interest and co-operation among the several general agencies of the church. It shall consider existing and emerging conditions and needs where the co-operative services of two or more agencies are needed, and devise ways and means of meeting those needs when they fall within the Disciplinary functions of two or more general agencies. It shall seek to further co-operation between existing agencies in their regular work and in carrying out such additional responsibilities as the General Conference may place on them. It shall report annually to the Council of Bishops and to the Council on World Service and Finance, and quadrennially to the General Conference.

CHAPTER XXIV

INTERDENOMINATIONAL AGENCIES

¶ 1596. 1. The Methodist Church is a charter member of the **National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America**. It has borne its proportionate share of financial support, and through the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund is authorized and directed to continue its support. (See ¶ 778.)

2. The representatives of The Methodist Church to the Assembly, the General Board, and other agencies of the National Council of Churches shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference, due regard being given to geographical representation. When representatives must be chosen or vacancies must be filled between sessions of the General Conference, the Council of Bishops is authorized and instructed to do so.

3. Methodist support of the National Council of Churches shall be channeled through the central treasury, as shall be directed by the Council on World Service and Finance,

which shall give due credit for Methodist gifts and contributions to this cause, and shall include them in its annual financial report to the church. The sources of income shall include: (a) the National Council of Churches' share of the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, as determined by the General Conference; and (b) such payments by the general agencies of the church as each agency may deem its responsibility and proportionate share in the co-operative program of the council. Personal, group, or local-church gifts shall be included as a part of the ratio distribution of the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund.

¶ 1597. 1. The Methodist Church is a charter member of the **World Council of Churches**. It has borne its proportionate share of financial support, and through the Interdenominational Co-operation Fund is authorized and directed to continue its support.

2. The representatives of The Methodist Church to the Assembly and other agencies of the World Council of Churches shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by the General Conference, due regard being given to geographical representation. When representatives must be chosen or vacancies must be filled between sessions of the General Conference, the Council of Bishops is authorized and instructed to do so.

4. Methodist support of the World Council of Churches shall be channeled through the central treasury, as shall be directed by the Council on World Service and Finance, which shall give due credit for Methodist gifts and contributions received by the World Council of Churches, and shall include them in its annual financial report to the church.

¶ 1598. To encourage the wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures throughout the world, and to provide for the translation, printing, and distribution essential thereto, the **American Bible Society** shall be recognized as one of the general missionary agencies of The Methodist Church, and the Council on World Service and Finance shall make appropriate provision for participating in its support.

¶ 1599. **Religion in American Life, Incorporated**, is recognized as an interdenominational and interfaith agency through which The Methodist Church may work

to direct attention to church attendance and loyalty to the Christian faith. In endorsing this program the Council of Bishops shall nominate to its board of directors five members, to be elected by the General Conference. Further, the Council on World Service and Finance shall recommend to the General Conference, for its action and determination, the amount to be included in the General Administration Fund as the Methodist share in this participation.

PART VIII

PENSIONS AND PERMANENT FUNDS

CHAPTER I

GENERAL BOARD OF PENSIONS

SECTION I.

Organization

¶ 1601. 1. There shall be a **General Board of Pensions** of The Methodist Church (hereafter called the board in this chapter and the general board in the remainder of Part VIII) with its principal office and place of business in Chicago, Illinois, having the general supervision and administration of the support of conference claimants of The Methodist Church. The Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church, Incorporated in Illinois, which is incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois in that name (formerly known as "The Board of Pensions and Relief of The Methodist Episcopal Church") and The Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church, Incorporated in Maryland, which is incorporated under the laws of the state of Maryland in that name (formerly known as "The General Fund for Superannuates of The Methodist Protestant Church"), and The Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church, Incorporated in Missouri, which is incorporated under the laws of the state of Missouri in that name (formerly known as "The Board of Finance of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South") shall be continued, subject to the direction, supervision, and control of the General Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church.

2. The general supervision and administration of the pension and relief systems and plans of The Methodist Church, subject to the direction, supervision, and control

of the board, shall be conducted by and through the office of the board in Chicago, Illinois.

3. The office at St. Louis, Missouri, of The Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church, Incorporated in Missouri, shall be continued under and subject to the direction, supervision, and control of the General Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church. The board shall have authority to establish, maintain, and discontinue from time to time such subordinate offices as it shall deem proper and advisable.

¶ 1602. 1. The board shall be composed of one bishop, to be elected by the Council of Bishops for a term of four years, and one minister and one layman from each jurisdiction for every 1,000,000 church members, or major fraction of that number, in the jurisdiction, to be elected by the Jurisdictional Conference for a term of eight years; *provided*, however, that there shall be at least one ministerial and one lay member from each jurisdiction; and *provided*, furthermore, that at its first meeting following the General Conference of 1952 the Jurisdictional Conference shall elect one half of its quota of members for a term of four years and one half of its quota of members for a term of eight years so that thereafter the Jurisdictional Conference shall elect one half of its quota of members each quadrennium for a term of eight years.

In addition there shall be two members at large to be elected by the other members of the board for a term of four years.

The general secretary of the board shall be an ex officio member without vote.

A member of the board shall serve during the term of office for which he was elected or until his successor shall have been elected and qualified. Members elected by a Jurisdictional Conference need not be delegates thereto.

2. A vacancy in the membership shall be filled for the unexpired term by the board.

3. The members of the board shall constitute the membership of the respective boards of directors of the aforesaid three constituent corporations. The general secretary shall be an ex officio member of each without vote.

4. In all matters not specifically covered by General

Conference legislation, the board shall have authority to adopt rules and policies for the administration of the support of conference claimants.

5. The annual meetings of the board and of the boards of directors of the constituent corporations shall be held at the same date and place, at which time the board shall review and consider responsibilities committed to its care and take such action as it deems advisable in the furtherance of the best interests of the pension program of The Methodist Church. Special meetings of the board may be called by any two of the officers named in ¶ 1603 § 1.

6. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

¶ 1603. 1. The board shall elect quadrennially from its own membership a president, a vice-president, and a recording secretary. At its first meeting following the respective meetings of the Jurisdictional Conferences, it shall elect a **general secretary** and one or more secretaries for terms of four years. The treasurers of the respective corporations shall be elected by the board for terms of four years, and may be persons who are not members of the board. A vacancy in any of these offices shall be filled by the board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

2. An **executive committee** shall be elected by the board. The same committee shall also respectively be elected by, and serve as the executive committee of, each of the three constituent corporations, unless otherwise required by applicable laws of the said respective states of incorporation, in which case the board shall recognize such laws and the corporations shall have power to comply therewith.

Sec. II.

Authorizations

¶ 1604. 1. The General Board of Pensions is authorized to adopt and further any and all plans, to undertake any and all activities, and to create, obtain, accept, receive, and administer any and all trust or other funds or property for the purpose of increasing the revenues, and of

providing for, aiding in, and contributing to the support, relief, assistance, and pensioning of Methodist ministers and their families, conference claimants of The Methodist Church, and other church workers and lay employees in The Methodist Church and its constituent boards, organizations, and institutions; and to do any and all acts and things necessary and convenient in connection therewith or incident thereto; and to perform any and all other duties and functions from time to time imposed or directed by the General Conference of The Methodist Church.

2. The board is authorized to receive, hold, manage, merge, consolidate, administer, invest, and reinvest, by and through its constituent corporations, all connectional pension funds, subject to the other provisions of the Discipline, and with due regard to any and all special contracts, agreements, and laws applicable thereto. (For rules and regulations of the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, see ¶¶ 1642-57; for rules and regulations of the Lay Employees Pension Fund, see ¶ 1658.)

3. The board is authorized to receive, hold, manage, administer, invest, and reinvest, by and through its constituent corporations, endowment funds belonging to Annual Conferences, or other funds for the support of conference claimants to be administered for the benefit of such Annual Conferences; *provided* that at no time shall any part of the principal of the endowment funds be appropriated by the board for any purpose. The net income of such endowment funds shall be accounted for annually to the board and paid over to the Annual Conferences concerned for the benefit of their conference claimants.

4. The board, by and through its constituent corporations, is authorized and empowered to receive any gift, devise, or bequest made or intended for the benefit of disabled, superannuated, or retired ministers, widows of ministers, and the dependent children of ministers, such persons being commonly called conference claimants, of The Methodist Church (being successor to the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church); and if the language or terms of any gift, devise, or bequest be

inexact or ambiguous, the board shall dispose of or administer the same in the manner deemed most equitable according to the apparent intent of the donor as determined by the Board, after careful inquiry into the circumstances in connection with the making of such gift, devise, or bequest.

5. The three constituent corporations shall, until otherwise determined by the board, continue to collect, receive, and administer such gifts, devises, and bequests and other funds as may be specifically designated to them by donors, subject to the rules and regulations of the board with respect thereto. All undesignated gifts, devises, bequests, and donations shall be collected, received, and administered under the direction of the Board.

¶ 1605. The board shall adopt ways and means to increase the endowment funds to be administered, either for the board or for the Annual Conferences, by obtaining gifts, annuities, and bequests, and also to increase the current contributions of the pastoral charges for conference claimants.

¶ 1606. The board shall share in the funds raised for the world service budget of The Methodist Church, as provided for in ¶¶ 741-42 and enabling acts.

CHAPTER II

PERMANENT FUNDS

¶ 1607. The **Chartered Fund** shall be administered by the General Board of Pensions for the benefit of all the Annual and Provisional Annual Conferences in The Methodist Church the boundaries of which are within the United States, its territorial and insular possessions, and Cuba, unless the General Conference shall order otherwise; and once a year the net earnings of the fund, after provision for depreciation, shall be divided equally among such Annual and Provisional Annual Conferences in accordance with the restrictive rule contained in ¶ 9 § 5.

¶ 1608. The General Board of Pensions shall order and direct that the income from the **General Endowment**

Fund for Conference Claimants (formerly known as the General Endowment Fund for Superannuates of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South) now held by the Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church, Incorporated in Missouri, shall be distributed on account of service of conference claimants rendered in an Annual Conference of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, or service rendered in an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church; provided, however, that such distribution shall be restricted to Annual Conferences which, directly or through their predecessor Annual Conferences, participated in raising this fund, in proportion to the number of approved years of annuity responsibility of each such Annual Conference as shall be determined by the General Board of Pensions.

¶ 1609. 1. Whenever two or more Annual Conferences or Provisional Annual Conferences are to be merged, in whole or in part, there shall be elected by each conference affected a Distributing Committee of three members, and three alternates, which shall act jointly with similar committees from the other conference or conferences. The **Joint Distributing Committee** thus formed shall have power and authority: (1) to allocate the pension responsibility involved; (2) to distribute equitably the permanent funds and other pension assets of the conference or conferences affected, taking into consideration in the division to the successor conference or conferences the number of churches, ministerial conference members, and pension responsibility involved. It shall be governed by the legal restrictions or limitations of any contract, pledge, deed, or other instrument.

2. The Joint Distributing Committee shall conduct a hearing thereon, after publication of notice thereof in two consecutive issues of the *New Christian Advocate* and *Together*, the last publication to be not less than thirty days preceding the hearing; and it shall have power to continue and adjourn such hearing from time to time until it is finally concluded and a final decision is rendered.

3. The committee shall be convened promptly by the general secretary of the General Board of Pensions, or

by some other officer of that board appointed by him in writing, and shall elect a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary from its membership. It shall prescribe the time and place of the hearing, and the secretary of the committee shall give the notice aforesaid.

4. The committee shall determine the number of years of approved service rendered in the conferences which will lose their identity in the merging of conference territory, and the findings of the committee shall be final unless definite evidence to the contrary is discovered, and the annuity payments by the continuing conference or conferences shall be made accordingly.

5. The committee shall keep complete minutes of its transactions, and a copy thereof shall be filed with the secretary of each conference involved and with the General Board of Pensions.

6. Until the committee's work shall have been completed, the corporate organization of each conference in the process of merger shall be maintained. After the committee shall have completed its work, the officers of such corporation, subject to the completion of its business, shall dissolve or merge it, being authorized to do so by the conference involved.

CHAPTER III

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION I.

Authorization

¶ 1610. 1. Annual Conferences, hereafter in this chapter called conferences, are authorized to establish and maintain investment funds, preachers aid societies, and organizations and funds of similar character, under such names, plans, rules, and regulations as they may determine, the income from which shall be applied to the support of conference claimants. It is recommended that each conference provide a corporation to administer its permanent funds, under some other corporate name than that used by the General Board of Pensions, the directors

of which shall be elected, or otherwise designated, by the conference where permissible under the laws of the state of incorporation.

2. All distributable funds, unless otherwise ordered by the conference, shall be disbursed by the Conference Board of Pensions, excepting only such funds as are otherwise restricted by specific provisions or limitations in gifts, devises, bequests, trusts, pledges, deeds, or other similar instruments, which restrictions and limitations shall be observed.

3. On and after June 1, 1956, it shall not be permissible for any conference or permanent-fund organization thereof, to deprive its conference claimants who are conference claimants in other conferences of the privilege of sharing in the distribution of the earned income of such permanent funds through the clearinghouse operations as provided hereinafter in ¶1636; *provided*, however, that a lien may be filed on the annuity of any conference claimant on account of unpaid assessments, obligations, or pledges owed to such permanent funds, in accordance with ¶1634.

4. Provided that no laws of the state in which it is organized or incorporated prohibit its so doing, a conference shall have power to require from its ministerial members and approved supply pastors who are appointed with annuity claim on the conference an annual contribution to either its permanent or reserve fund or for current distribution or to a preachers aid society for the benefit of its annuitants, subject to the following provisions: (1) the annual payment may be made in installments as provided by the conference; (2) the conference may fix a financial penalty for failure of the member to pay; (3) in case his membership in the conference is terminated under the provisions of the Discipline, the conference may refund the amount so paid, in whole or in part, after hearing has been given to him in case such hearing is requested; (4) the making of such payment shall not be used as the ground of contractual obligations upon the part of the conference, or as the ground of any special or additional annuity claim of a member against the conference, neither shall it prevent disallowance of his annuity claim by conference action; (5) ministers entering

a conference shall not be charged an initial entry fee by any organization mentioned in § 1 of this paragraph; furthermore, the annual contribution required from a ministerial member of the conference or an approved supply pastor shall not exceed the equivalent of three per cent of his cash salary.

5. Each conference shall hold one service during its sessions, to be known as the **Conference Claimants Anniversary**, for the promotion of the interests of the conference claimants.

6. Each conference, on recommendation of its Conference Board of Pensions or one of the organizations mentioned in § 1 of this paragraph, shall select a Sunday in each year to be observed in the churches as **Retired Ministers Day**, in honor of the retired ministers, their wives, and the widows of ministers, and in recognition of the church's obligation for their support. The bishop shall request each conference in his area to insert Retired Ministers Day in its calendar, and he shall diligently promote the observance of it.

SEC. II. Conference Board of Pensions

¶ 1611. 1. There shall be organized in each Annual Conference a conference board, auxiliary to the General Board of Pensions, to be known as the **Conference Board of Pensions** (hereafter called the board in this section and the conference board in the remainder of Part VIII), which shall have charge of the interests and work of providing for the support of its conference claimants, except as otherwise provided for by the general board.

2. The board shall be composed of not less than twelve members, not indebted to or beneficiaries of conference claimants' funds of the conference, effective ministers and laymen in equal number, elected for a term of eight years and so arranged in two equal classes that one half shall be elected quadrennially; and in addition thereto any ministerial member of the conference or lay member of a church within the conference who is a member of the General Board of Pensions. A lay member of the board may or may not be a member of the Annual Conference.

A vacancy in the membership of the board shall be filled by the board for the remainder of the conference year in which the vacancy occurs, and at its next session the conference shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

3. The members shall assume their duties at the adjournment of the conference session at which they were elected.

4. The board shall organize by electing a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer, who shall serve during the ensuing quadrennium, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. These officers shall constitute an **executive committee**; *provided*, however, that three members may be added thereto by the board. The duty of the executive committee shall be to administer the work of the board during the conference year in the interim between regular or special meetings of the board. The office of secretary may be combined with that of treasurer. The treasurer may be a person who is not a member of the board, in which case he shall not be a member of the executive committee. Calls for special meetings of the board shall be issued by the secretary on request of the chairman, or the vice-chairman, when the chairman is unable to act.

5. The board shall report to the conference the names, addresses, and years of approved service of the conference claimants, the names of those who have died during the year, the names of the dependent children of deceased ministerial members of the conference, and any other useful information, and shall show separately the amount paid to each by the conference from the annuity and necessitous funds.

6. The appropriations to the conference claimants shall be subject to the approval of the conference.

7. The board shall make a report to the General Board of Pensions immediately following the session of the conference, on forms provided for that purpose by the general board.

8. The conference shall constitute the board a committee on proportional payment of ministerial support, for the purpose of comparing the records of amounts paid on

support of pastors and conference claimants by each pastoral charge, computing the proportional distribution thereof, and keeping a permanent record of defaults; or the conference may organize a special **Committee on Proportional Payment of Ministerial Support**, which shall keep permanent records and furnish necessary information to the board regarding adjustment of annuities. (See ¶ 1624.)

9. The board shall administer all annuities and relief provided for the benefit of special conference claimants. (See ¶ 1631.)

10. The board shall investigate carefully all cases in which applications have been made by conference claimants for relief or necessitous appropriation, so as to determine equitably the amount of relief to be granted in each case.

11. The conference, on recommendation of the board, shall designate a bank or other depository for deposit of the funds held by the board.

12. The board, through the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, shall provide a fidelity bond in suitable amount for all persons handling its funds. (See ¶¶ 729, 804.)

13. The board may build up a stabilization fund from the income for conference claimants in order to stabilize the annuity rate. Such stabilization fund should be at least the equivalent of twenty-five per cent of the average annual income of the board for all purposes for the five years immediately preceding. Such stabilization fund shall be held as the conference shall direct and shall be subject to the requirements of § 11 of this paragraph.

SEC. III.

Financial Policy

¶ 1612. The following rules shall apply to financial administration of Annual Conference pension and pension-related permanent funds:

1. Persons connected in any way with the securities, real estate, or other forms of investment sold to or purchased from such funds shall be ineligible to serve on the investment committee responsible therefor.

2. No officer or member of a conference agency handling such funds shall receive a personal commission, bonus, or remuneration in connection with the purchase or sale of securities or other properties for that agency, or shall be eligible to obtain a loan in any amount from funds committed to the care of that agency.

3. No local church or organization thereof shall be eligible to obtain a loan in any amount from such funds.

4. The principle of diversification of investments shall be observed, in order to obtain proper geographical and class distribution of investment commitments.

5. Real property may be accepted as consideration for gift annuity agreements only with the stipulation that the annuity shall not exceed the net income from the property until such property shall have been liquidated. Upon liquidation, the annuity shall be paid upon the net proceeds at the established annuity rate.

6. A conference agency handling such funds shall not offer higher rates of annuity than those listed in the annuity schedule approved by the Council on World Service and Finance. (See ¶ 737 § 10.)

7. On order of the conference, there shall be printed in its journal a list of the investments held by each agency handling such funds directly or indirectly under the control of the conference, or such list may be distributed directly to the members of the conference at their request. A copy of all such lists concerning conference claimants shall be filed annually with the General Board of Pensions.

8. The borrowing of money in any conference year by a conference corporation or organization to enable the Conference Board of Pensions to complete payment of annuities at a designated annuity rate shall be done only on authority of the conference granted by three-fourths vote of the members present and voting.

CHAPTER IV PENSION CODE

¶ 1613. The administration of the pensions and support of conference claimants within the Annual Confer-

ences situated in the United States, hereafter in this chapter called conferences, shall be the responsibility of the General Board of Pensions, and shall be governed by the rules and regulations contained in the following code, and such amendments thereto as may hereafter be adopted.

¶ 1614. *Definition of Conference Claimants.*—Retired ministers, the widows of ministers, and dependent children of deceased ministers are **conference claimants**.

¶ 1615. *Nature of Ministerial Support.*—Assumption of the obligations of the ministry required to be made at the time of his admission to membership in an Annual Conference puts upon the church the inevitable counter-obligation of providing a comfortable support for the minister during the period of his conference membership and for his widow and dependent children after his death; but such counterobligation with reference to these benefits shall not be construed as contractual unless and until provision shall have been made therefor on an actuarial reserve basis. (See ¶ 821.)

¶ 1616. *Approval of Claim.*—The Annual Conference shall be the sole judge of the admissibility and validity of annuity claims and shall be fully competent to determine all payments, disallowances, and deductions thereunder, subject to the specific regulations relating thereto contained in the Discipline.

¶ 1617. *Retirement.*—1. The Annual Conference may place any ministerial member thereof in the retired relation, with or without his consent and irrespective of his age, if such relation be recommended by the Committee on Conference Relations. (See ¶ 367.)

2. Every ministerial member of an Annual Conference who has attained age seventy-two prior to the first day of the session of the conference shall be placed in the retired relation. (See ¶ 368.)

3. At his own request the Annual Conference may place any ministerial member thereof in the retired relation, with the privilege of making an annuity claim, if he has attained age sixty-five, or has completed forty years of full-time approved service, as defined in ¶ 1618, prior to

the first day of the session of the conference to which said request is presented. (See ¶ 369.)

4. Retirement with the privilege of making an annuity claim on the ground of personal disability shall be permitted only after a thorough investigation of the case by, and presentation of a medical certificate to, the Committee on Conference Relations. This certificate shall be made on a form approved by the General Board of Pensions, and shall be given by a regular medical doctor, other than the personal physician of the applicant, who has been approved by the Committee on Conference Relations. If such disability continue for more than one year, such medical certificate shall be required annually.

5. If retirement take place for other reasons than personal disability, the right to make an annuity claim from the time of retirement until the ministerial member qualifies under § 3 shall be granted on recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations and a three-fourths vote of those present and voting in the Annual Conference; *provided*, however, that in case of emergency occurring between sessions of the conference the Conference Board of Pensions shall have authority to grant relief at its discretion.

6. When because of physical or mental incapacity a minister is forced to give up his ministerial work during the conference year, upon recommendation of the Cabinet, accompanied by a medical certificate, as set forth in § 4 of this paragraph, the Conference Board of Pensions may grant him an appropriation from an emergency fund for the remaining part of the conference year.

7. The Conference Board of Pensions, on recommendation of the Cabinet, may grant aid to a minister in the effective relation who has attained the age of voluntary retirement and has been compelled because of an emergency to relinquish his ministerial work during the conference year.

¶ 1618. *Definitions.*—1. The term **years of approved service** shall mean full-time service rendered in and to any appointment mentioned in § 2 of this paragraph. Part-time service can be counted for annuity claim only by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting in

the Annual Conference on recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions.

2. The following years of approved service on trial or in the effective relation in an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, as defined in § 8 of this paragraph, are eligible to be counted for the purpose of determining the annuity claims payable thereon:

a) As pastor, associate or assistant pastor, or other minister in a pastoral charge.

b) As district superintendent, presiding elder, conference president, or other full-time salaried official of the conference.

c) Under special appointment to an institution, organization, or agency which in the judgment of the Annual Conference rendered to it some form of service, direct or indirect, sufficient to warrant granting an annuity from the conference funds therefor, or to a community church; *provided*, however, that such institution, organization, agency, or community church accepts and pays annually such apportionments as the conference may require in accordance with the provision set forth in ¶ 1623 § 7; and *provided*, furthermore, that any institution, organization, agency, or community church may arrange for a pension related to such service through the Joint Contributory Annuity Fund administered by the General Board of Pensions. (All service in special appointment as ministerial members of conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church prior to May 29, 1924, shall be regarded as valid, irrespective of subsequent limitations enacted by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and, furthermore, nothing hereinbefore provided in this subsection shall prevent a conference from fulfilling any special arrangement which it may have entered into prior to January 1, 1946, whereby it agreed to assume the annuity responsibility for a minister while serving under special appointment to an institution or organization not under the control of the conference.)

d) Under special appointment as an evangelist; *provided*, however, that if annuity responsibility be accepted by the conference therefor, such conference may require

the payment of an apportionment by such evangelist in accordance with the provision in ¶ 1623 § 7.

e) As a student left without appointment to attend school.

f) As a minister on sabbatical leave. (See ¶ 364.)

g) As the wife of a minister during his years of approved service. (See ¶ 1620.)

h) As a chaplain on full-time duty prior to December 31, 1946, in case no pension is granted for such years of service by the employing organization, institution, or agency related to the Commission on Chaplains of The Methodist Church as set forth in ¶ 1571; *provided*, however, that provision for pension on account of service rendered after December 31, 1946, as a chaplain on full-time duty shall be made by the Chaplains Pension Fund administered in connection with the Joint Contributory Annuity Fund in accordance with rules and regulations to be determined jointly by the General Board of Pensions and the Commission on Chaplains.

i) In calculating fractional years of service of a conference claimant the following formula shall be used in all cases, irrespective of the time when such service was rendered, including those involved in clearinghouse operations: Any period up to one month and fourteen days shall not be counted; one month and fifteen days to four months and fourteen days shall be counted as one quarter of a year; four months and fifteen days to seven months and fourteen days shall be counted as one half of a year; seven months and fifteen days to ten months and fourteen days shall be counted as three quarters of a year; ten months and fifteen days to eleven months and twenty-nine days shall be counted as one year. Each of the above-mentioned periods shall be inclusive of all days therein.

3. The following years of service on trial or in the effective relation shall not be approved as a basis of annuity claim:

a) Years for which a pension, or any other form of compensation or "deferred salary," is received from any source other than the Annual Conference.

b) A year of service rendered concurrently by a minister and his wife, whether on the same pastoral charge,

or otherwise as members of an Annual Conference, or as approved supply pastors therein, shall be counted only as one year. A year of service rendered as an approved supply pastor by the wife of a ministerial member of the conference on a separate pastoral charge shall not be eligible for count as full-time pastoral service.

4. On recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions and approval by the Annual Conference, special appointments shall be listed in the conference journal as follows: (1) with annuity claim (a) upon this Annual Conference, or (b) upon a general board, an institution, or an agency of The Methodist Church; (2) without annuity claim upon this Annual Conference.¹ If at any session the conference shall fail to make such listing, it may be done subsequently, whenever desirable, under the Disciplinary question, "What other personal notation should be made?" (¶ 651. Question 46.)

5. The **annuity rate** shall mean the sum determined annually by the Annual Conference, payable as an annuity for each year of approved service of a retired minister rendered in The Methodist Church. The annuity rate shall be determined by the conference without restriction, but it is recommended that such rate be not less than one per cent of the average salary of the conference as hereinafter defined in § 6.

6. The **average salary** of the conference for the purposes of this annuity plan shall mean the average salary (including house rent at a valuation equivalent to fifteen per cent of the cash salary in cases in which a parsonage is occupied or house rent is provided) of the ministers in the conference who are in the effective relation as pastors or district superintendents, based on the salaries as published in the statistical report of the conference. In computing the average salary no account shall be taken of salaries of ministers who have served less than one year on a pastoral charge. The average salary shall be established by the General Board of Pensions for each conference biennially, based on the reports for odd-numbered years.

¹ See Judicial Council Decision 95.

7. **Dependent child** shall mean a child of a deceased minister or a child legally adopted before the minister's retirement or death, under sixteen years of age, and dependent for his or her support. If the child be kept in a standard school, the age limit may be extended not to exceed five additional years by action of the Conference Board of Pensions. (See ¶ 1621.)

8. **The Methodist Church** shall mean The Methodist Church after the Uniting Conference of 1939, also any of the churches united in 1939, as they were constituted prior to 1939.

9. On recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions, the Annual Conference shall determine the Methodist institutions and organizations related to it service in which shall be approved for annuity responsibility of the conference; *provided*, however, that such list may be revised at any session of the conference. Such list shall be printed annually in the conference journal under the Disciplinary question "What Methodist institutions or organizations are approved by the conference for annuity responsibility?" (¶ 651 Question 15.)

¶ 1619. *Claim of a Retired Minister.*—The annuity claim of a retired minister shall be for an amount equivalent to the total of his years of approved service multiplied by the annuity rate as defined above, irrespective of breaks in the sequence of such service.

¶ 1620. *Claim of a Widow.*—1. The annuity claim of a widow shall be for an amount equivalent to the total of her years of approved service (¶ 1618 §§ 2g, 3b) multiplied by seventy per cent of the annuity rate. The seventy per cent may be raised to seventy-five per cent at the option of the Annual Conference. The fact that a widow served as the wife of a minister of The Methodist Church until his death and, after an intervening period of widowhood, served again as the wife of another minister of The Methodist Church shall not prevent the approval of all such years of service for the purpose of computing her annuity claim.

2. The annuity claim of a widow of a ministerial member or of an approved supply pastor shall become effective immediately upon the death of such husband; *provided*,

however, that if he was himself a conference claimant or a special conference claimant at the time of his death, her annuity claim shall become effective with the date of the next payment which would have been scheduled for him if he had lived.

3. The widow of a deceased ministerial member of a conference or approved supply pastor who remarries shall have no annuity claim during such marriage until her attainment of age sixty-five, at which time her annuity claim may be reinstated; but if such subsequent marriage be dissolved by the husband's death or by legal process, the conference on recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions may reinstate her annuity claim thereafter subject to the provisions of the pension code.

4. The widow of a deceased minister whose conference membership was terminated under the provisions of ¶¶ 374-82 or 935-37, 952 shall have the right to make an annuity claim on the conferences concerned based on her years of approved service; *provided*, however, that such claim must be approved, on recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting in the Annual Conference.

5. An Annual Conference, on recommendation of its Conference Board of Pensions, may by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting grant annuity and/or necessitous relief to a wife for her years of approved service without granting annuity to her husband if he has disqualified himself by some moral dereliction, mental illness, or other cause beyond the wife's control.

6. The Conference Board of Pensions shall obtain annually satisfactory evidence that a widow is living and is eligible to receive annuity payments in accordance with the provisions of the pension code.

7. The clearinghouse is hereby authorized to assign and transfer the obligation for the payment of the claims of the widow and minor children of a deceased conference member to such other conference as the widow may request in writing, subject to the consent of the Conference Board of Pensions of the conference thereby obligated; *provided*, however, that the requirements of divided

annuity responsibility as set forth in ¶ 1636 shall be observed.

¶ 1621. *Claim of a Dependent Child.*—1. The claim of an unmarried dependent child shall be determined by multiplying the equivalent of the deceased father's years of approved service by one fourth of the annuity rate to which the retired ministers are entitled; *provided*, however, that in no case shall the total claims of the dependent children in the deceased minister's family exceed the annuity claim which would correspond with his years of service multiplied by the annuity rate payable to retired ministers.

2. The claim of an unmarried dependent child shall become effective immediately upon the death of the father and shall cease upon attainment of age sixteen. If the child be kept in a standard school, the age limit may be extended, not to exceed five additional years, by action of the Conference Board of Pensions. On recommendation of the board and approval by two thirds of those present and voting in the Annual Conference, renewed annually, a claim may be validated for a child past sixteen years of age in case of evident mental or physical incapacity to provide self-support; *provided*, however, that such mental or physical incapacity shall have become apparent prior to the attainment of age twenty-one and shall have continued thereafter; and *provide*, furthermore, that before recommending such claim the board shall require a medical certificate and may require subsequent certificates certifying the continuance of such incapacity.

3. A certificate of attendance of a dependent child at a standard school shall be obtained annually between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one by the conference board, on a form to be provided by the general board.

¶ 1622. *Claim of a Missionary.*—1. A regularly commissioned missionary of the Board of Missions, holding membership in an Annual Conference or Provisional Annual Conference or connected with a Mission, shall be entitled to make an annuity claim upon the division of the Board of Missions which provides his support.

2. A retired missionary who has been granted the retired relation in an Annual Conference abroad shall be entitled

to make an annuity claim upon a conference in the United States on account of years of approved service rendered therein. Such claim shall be presented to the General Board of Pensions, and payments due thereunder shall be collected from the conferences concerned and forwarded to the claimant by the general board in such manner as it may deem most expeditious and economical. In such cases the general board shall certify the years of approved service to each conference concerned.

¶ 1623. *Apportionments.*—1. The Annual Conference, on recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions, shall determine the annuity rate payable. The recommended standard annuity rate is a sum equivalent to one per cent of the average salary of the conference. (*See* ¶ 1618 §§ 5, 6.)

2. The Conference Board of Pensions shall compute the total amount necessary to meet the prospective annuity disbursements according to the annuity rate determined. After all amounts which will be received from other sources for the support of conference claimants have been subtracted from this total, the remaining amount necessary shall be apportioned to the several pastoral charges of the conference on such basis as the conference may from time to time determine. (*See* ¶ 822.) In case the basis of apportionment adopted is that of a percentage of the cash salaries of the ministers, where there is more than one minister serving a pastoral charge the apportionment thereto shall be on the basis of all cash salaries paid to such ministers.

3. The apportionment to the pastoral charges for both regular relief and emergency appropriations for conference claimants who are in distress, or because of other special circumstances, shall be estimated by the Conference Board of Pensions.²

4. The Conference Commission on World Service and Finance shall include in its recommendations to the Annual Conference the amounts computed by the Conference Board of Pensions as necessary to meet the needs for annuity payments and relief. (*See* ¶ 798.)

² Amended in 1944 following Judicial Council Decision 13.

5. The apportionment for aged and disabled supply pastors, if any, shall be combined with the apportionment for regular conference claimants.

6. The apportionment to a federated church, if and when it is served by a ministerial member or an approved supply pastor of the Annual Conference, shall be made on the same basis as the apportionments to the pastoral charges of the conference; *provided*, however, that an annual apportionment may be made to a federated church in accordance with the terms of an agreement between the Conference Board of Pensions and such federated church.

7. a) An Annual Conference which accepts annuity responsibility in any conference year for service rendered by a member thereof under special appointment to an institution, organization, agency, or community church, as provided in ¶ 1618 § 2c, may make an apportionment to such institution, organization, agency, or community church served for such amount as the conference may determine; *provided*, however, that such apportionment shall not exceed an amount equivalent to twelve times the annuity rate which has been adopted for that conference year. (See also ¶ 1618 §§ 4, 9.)

b) Until the person concerned or his widow becomes a conference claimant, moneys collected on apportionments made under authority of this subsection may be conserved by the Conference Board of Pensions in a special fund.

c) Such moneys shall be released for general distribution when the parties concerned become conference claimants; one twelfth of the funds accumulated, in each case, to be released annually thereafter for distribution. Moneys so conserved and distributed shall be regarded as part of the general resources for distribution by the Conference Board of Pensions.

¶ 1624. *Proportional Payment.*—1. When the apportionment to the pastoral charges for the support of conference claimants and for the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund has been determined as provided in ¶¶ 822 and 1645 § 4, payments made thereon by each pastoral charge shall be exactly proportionate to payments made on the

salary or salaries of the minister or ministers serving it. (See ¶ 823.)

2. The amount apportioned to each pastoral charge for the support of conference claimants and for the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund shall be paid to the conference treasurer monthly or quarterly, and the conference treasurer shall remit monthly to the treasurer or treasurers of these respective funds.

3. The treasurer of the pastoral charge shall be primarily responsible for the application of § 1 of this paragraph; but in the event of his failure to apply it, the pastor shall adjust his cash salary and the payment according to the proper ratio, as provided above, before he enters the respective amounts in his statistical report to the Annual Conference. And, on retirement, amounts in default shall be deducted from his annuity as provided in ¶ 1634 § 1. If such pastor be a member of the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, the annual contribution to the service annuity credit by the conference of such member shall be withheld in any conference year unless and until proportional payment, as required herein, has been observed.

4. The Conference Board of Pensions shall render a statement annually to all ministers of the conference who have failed to observe the provisions of this paragraph, indicating the amounts in default for that and all preceding conference years. Copies thereof shall be sent to the clearinghouse of the General Board of Pensions, and the information contained thereon shall be recorded upon the service records of the individual ministers concerned.

5. In the event of the failure of a retired minister to observe the provisions of this paragraph while serving as a supply pastor in any conference year, the amount of such default shall be deducted from such retired minister's annuity during the ensuing conference year.

6. It shall not be permissible for a pastor to receive a bonus or other supplementary compensation tending to defeat proportional payment. Failure to comply with this section shall be deemed disobedience to the order and discipline of The Methodist Church. The Conference Board of Pensions may recommend to the conference that the

pastor's annuity claim be disallowed for the year during which such bonus or supplementary compensation was so received.³

¶ 1625. *Distribution.*—1. Moneys designated for distribution to the claimants as annuities shall be distributed on the basis of years of approved service, and shall consist of:

- a) The appropriation from The Methodist Publishing House.
- b) The income from investments for annuity distribution held for this purpose.
- c) Gifts and bequests for annuity distribution.
- d) Money received from the apportionments to the pastoral charges for annuity distribution.
- e) Money received from all special offerings for distribution to conference claimants.

2. Moneys designated for relief on the basis of special need and emergency relief shall consist of:

- a) The appropriation from the Chartered Fund.
- b) Money received from the apportionment to the pastoral charges; *provided* that each conference shall set aside for necessitous and emergency distribution such part of its fund as it may deem necessary, but not to exceed five per cent of the total amount collected on apportionment to the pastoral charges.

3. The Conference Board of Pensions may pay annuities in quarterly or monthly installments.

4. The amount received for the support of conference claimants each year from the pastoral charges in advance of the conference sessions shall be reserved for appropriation and expenditure during the ensuing conference year; *provided*, however, that the conferences now paying on a current income basis may continue to do so temporarily, but as quickly as feasible shall change to collection of income one year in advance of payment.

¶ 1626. *Relinquishment.*—1. For a year at a time a conference claimant may voluntarily relinquish in writing his annuity claim and any amount payable thereunder; *provided* that the disposal of the relinquished amount

shall be entirely under the control of the Conference Board of Pensions.

2. Any agreement made prior to retirement to relinquish at retirement a future annuity claim shall be null and void.

¶ 1627. *Disallowance.*—1. Upon recommendation of a majority of the Conference Board of Pensions, after opportunity has been given for hearing the claimant's objections, which may be made in person, or by a ministerial member of an Annual Conference acting as the claimant's personal representative, the annuity claim of any conference claimant may be disallowed, in whole or in part, by three-fourths vote of the ministers of the Annual Conference, present and voting, for any of the following causes:

- a) Receipt of a pension or other periodical income from an individual church, or from other sources, which may be presumed to cover and adequately compensate for certain years of service included in the claim.
- b) Service in a special appointment which did not confer sufficient benefit on The Methodist Church to justify apportioning the annuity cost thereof to the pastoral charges of the conference.
- c) Having been found guilty of unministerial or unchristian conduct by the Disciplinary processes.

2. The following rules and procedures shall be observed in all cases of disallowance of annuity claims:

a) The secretary of the Conference Board of Pensions shall notify the conference claimant, by registered mail, at the last address known to the conference secretary, concerning the proposed disallowance not less than three months in advance of the conference session at which his case will be adjudicated.

b) The notification of the claimant shall specify the cause or causes under which the case will be cited.

c) If he or she cannot be present, the claimant shall have the right to choose a ministerial member of any Annual Conference to present his or her objections to the proposed disallowance before the Conference Board of Pensions prior to action on the case.

d) The Conference Board of Pensions shall present

³ See Judicial Council Decision 51.

to the conference the proposal for disallowance in written form with a full statement of the case and a record of its vote for and against recommendation.

e) Disallowance cannot be made by general rule of the Annual Conference; each case must be heard and adjudicated separately.

3. When an annuity claim shall have been disallowed, under § 1 of this paragraph, it may be reconsidered at any subsequent annual session of the conference, upon recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions, or by two-thirds vote of the members of the conference present and voting.

4. Disallowance can be made only by the conference where membership is held or, in the case of a widow or minor dependent children, the conference with which the claimant is directly connected.

¶ 1629. *Service Records.*—1. The General Board of Pensions shall maintain complete service records of ministerial members of the Annual Conferences, compiled from the answers to the Disciplinary questions as published in the conference journals and in the general minutes of The Methodist Church.

2. Power to revise, correct, or adjust a minister's service record as it concerns his annuity lies with the Annual Conference solely. It is recommended that, prior to the revision of a member's service record, the General Board of Pensions be requested to review the relevant data and report its findings. Such revisions, corrections, and adjustments, after having been adopted by the conference concerned, shall be published in the conference journal as a personal notation in the answers to the Disciplinary questions (¶ 651 Question 46), and notice thereof shall be sent to the General Board of Pensions by the conference secretary.

3. The secretary of each Annual Conference shall publish annually in the conference journal the chronological roll of ministerial members and approved supply pastors, indicating the total number of years of approved service of each; *provided*, however, that if the alphabetical roll printed in the conference journal contains the required

information, a separate chronological roll shall not be mandatory. (See ¶ 632.)

4. In the conference statistical tables there shall be provided a separate column with the caption "Conference Claimants," which shall show the amount apportioned to each charge and the amount paid.

5. The conference secretary shall have the power to require from each and every ministerial member of it a signed statement concerning the date of his birth, the date of birth of his wife, the date of their marriage, and the dates of birth of their dependent children, and to require similar data from approved supply pastors.

¶ 1630. *General Regulations.*—1. A minister who refuses to prorate ministerial support may be brought to trial for violation of a law of the church.

2. Annuities are granted by the conference annually, including those granted on the ground of disability; the determination of what constitutes disability lies with the conference.

3. The annuity claim of an effective minister cannot be recognized by the Conference Board of Pensions between annual sessions of the conference; he must be retired first. Provision for emergency cases may be made in accordance with ¶ 1617 §§ 5-7.

4. A minor child of a living retired minister cannot be a conference claimant.

5. Although the conference has power to require a contribution to its funds and to fix a financial penalty for defaults, a minister cannot be brought to trial for failure to make such required contribution.

6. A conference may withhold money from a conference claimant in order to discharge his obligation for assessments voted by the conference for conference claimants.

7. A minister cannot be retired automatically by operation of a conference rule fixing an age of retirement other than that specified in the Discipline.

8. A minister cannot present his credentials to and be accepted into the ministry of another denomination and at the same time retain his standing in an Annual Conference of The Methodist Church. Such action constitutes withdrawal from our ministry. However, if a ministerial

member while in good standing in an Annual Conference voluntarily withdraws from the ministry of The Methodist Church in order to enter the ministry of another church, upon the attainment of age sixty-five and retirement from the ministry of such other church or denomination, upon recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions and a three-fourths vote of those present and voting in the Annual Conference in which ministerial membership was last held, he may be recognized as a conference claimant and allowed an annuity claim on account of approved service in The Methodist Church.

9. A conference member cannot relinquish his annuity claim at conference time and then ask for it, or a portion of it, during the conference year.

10. An Annual Conference may not make any arrangement with a life insurance company for the purchase of annuities for the benefit of individual effective or retired ministers, or take any steps to nullify, in whole or in part, the annuity plan of The Methodist Church by making contracts with outside parties. However, group life insurance may be provided through the medium of a life insurance company.

11. Money received for the support of conference claimants shall be appropriated only for the payment of pension or relief benefits to conference claimants and the administrative costs of the pension program, except as provided in ¶ 1631 § 5.

12. A minister on trial or the widow and dependent children of a minister who was on trial at the time of his death may become conference claimants subject to the provisions of the pension code.

13. A widow of a retired minister who married him after his retirement or a child born of such marriage is not entitled to make an annuity claim, except as provided in the last sentence of ¶ 1620 § 1.

14. A minister in the supernumerary relation cannot make an annuity claim, but may be granted emergency relief by the Conference Board of Pensions.

15. If a located person, whether located voluntarily or involuntarily, remains a member in good standing of The Methodist Church until the age of voluntary retirement

fixed by the General Conference, he shall retain the right to make an annuity claim based on his years of approved service; *provided*, however, that upon presentation of satisfactory evidence regarding his character during location he shall have been readmitted into the Annual Conference, or its legal successor, which granted him location. (See ¶¶ 374-79.)

16. In determining the annuity claim of a regular conference claimant, the years of approved service as a full-time approved supply pastor rendered prior to admission on trial by a conference may be counted and payment made therefor at the rate for a special conference claimant. (See ¶ 1631.)

17. Full-time service rendered as pastor of a charge between the date of termination of membership in an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference and the date of readmission into membership in an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference may be approved for an annuity claim on recommendation of the Conference Board of Pensions and vote of the conference.

18. If the conference provides a dwelling for the use of a conference claimant, an adjustment may be made in his annuity as determined by the conference, after recommendation by the Conference Board of Pensions.

¶ 1631. *Special Conference Claimants.*—1. An approved supply pastor who shall have rendered not less than ten years of full-time approved service as pastor of a charge may upon retirement make an annuity claim as a **special conference claimant**; *provided*, however, that any period of less than one full year of service in any conference may not be counted; and *provided*, furthermore, that years of full-time service rendered to a board, institution, or other agency of The Methodist Church may be counted when determining eligibility, but the annuity as a special conference claimant shall be based only on full-time approved service as pastor of a charge.

2. On recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations an approved supply pastor who has attained age sixty-five prior to the first day of the conference session, and who has rendered the minimum number of years of approved service may request retirement, and

upon retirement shall be designated a special conference claimant.

3. Every approved supply pastor who has attained age seventy-two prior to the first day of the conference session shall be retired. (See ¶ 368.)

4. A special conference claimant (§ 1) shall be entitled to make an annuity claim, for each year of approved service rendered as a regularly appointed pastor, the equivalent of one per cent of the average salary (including house rent at a valuation equivalent to fifteen per cent of the cash salary) of the regularly appointed approved supply pastors of the conference as computed by the Conference Board of Pensions; *provided*, however, that any conference may apply the same annuity rate to the claims of special conference claimants as to the claims of the regular conference claimants.

5. In necessitous cases, the Conference Board of Pensions may grant relief to special conference claimants subject to the approval of the conference; *provided*, also, that relief may be granted to an approved supply pastor who has been retired by reason of age or disability prior to completion of the years of approved service required under § 1 of this paragraph for eligibility as a special conference claimant.

6. The list of special conference claimants showing their respective years of service and the payments to them shall be kept separately from the list of regular conference claimants, and shall be published in the conference journal.

7. The regulations of the general pension code, including those on proportional payment and the claims of widows and children, shall apply to the administration of funds for special conference claimants with the exceptions specified in this paragraph; *provided*, however, that all years of approved service of such claimants shall be the direct responsibility of the conference in which the service was rendered and shall not involve clearinghouse operations.

8. The sources of annuity and relief funds payable to special conference claimants shall be: (1) collections for that purpose from the pastoral charges; (2) any amounts

specifically designated for that purpose coming from any source.

9. Missions within the United States may organize a Conference Board of Pensions to care for the special needs of special conference claimants with the help of the General Board of Pensions. In such cases the Mission shall establish the annuity rate to be paid annually.

10. The following questions shall be included in the business of the Annual Conference: (a) "What approved supply pastors are credited with annuity claim on account of full-time service during the past year?" (b) "What approved supply pastors have been retired: This year? Previously?" (See ¶ 651 Questions 22, 43.)

¶ 1633. *Operation in Other Countries.*—The provisions in this pension code are to give guidance in the administration of pensions in the conferences of The Methodist Church outside the United States. In so far as may be practicable, the general principles involved in the code shall be regarded and employed in such conferences until the General Conference shall order otherwise.

¶ 1634. *Liens on Annuities.*—1. Whenever a conference claimant shall be in debt to the conference or any of its organizations on account of unpaid assessments, obligations, or pledges for the benefit of conference claimants, such debt shall constitute a lien on the annuity of the person involved, and the conference shall have power to appropriate and apply his or her annuity, or any part thereof, to the payment of such debt; *provided*, however, that not more than one quarter of the annuity payable by the conference in which the debt was incurred shall be appropriated in any year for such purpose, and *provided*, furthermore, that such power shall not be interpreted as applying to the settlement of other debts of a conference claimant. (See ¶ 1624.)

2. a) A conference having a claim for unpaid assessments in connection with its funds for conference claimants against a ministerial member of another conference, through its Conference Board of Pensions, shall file such claim with the clearinghouse within two years following the date of transfer from the conference having the claim;

provided, however, that this time limit shall not apply to any claim filed on or before December 31, 1957.

b) The clearinghouse shall file a copy of said claim with the Conference Board of Pensions of the conference to which the member has been transferred, shall send a copy thereof to the member concerned, and shall record the claim on his service record.

3. a) A conference which has filed a claim in accordance with § 2 of this paragraph may file a lien through the clearinghouse against the annuity of a conference claimant for the unpaid amount of the said claim; *provided*, however, that the said lien shall be filed within one year of the date of retirement or death of the minister concerned, whichever first occurred. Thereupon the clearinghouse shall request the conference concerned to deduct the unpaid amount of the claim from the annuity of the conference claimant against whose annuity the said lien has been filed, and to remit to the clearinghouse as soon as practicable the amounts deducted.

b) The amount of any deduction made under this subsection shall be subject to the limitations provided in § 1 of this paragraph; and, furthermore, it is hereby stipulated that interest on liens of this character, if charged, shall be computed only at simple interest. The clearinghouse shall have no responsibility for transmission of moneys collected under this subsection until such moneys have been remitted to it. No "debtor" conference shall withhold or deduct a part of the money it is required to pay to the clearinghouse with the intent of satisfying in advance any claims which the conference may desire to make under this subsection.

¶ 1635. *Operation Through the General Board.*—

1. When authorized by the Annual Conference, the Conference Board of Pensions may deposit all or any part of the funds under its control with the general board as set forth in ¶ 1604 § 3.

2. The Annual Conference may authorize the general board to make the periodical payments to the conference claimants; and in such case the conference board shall prepare annually a complete schedule of the plan of distribution for the guidance of the general board in making

such payments, and shall co-operate fully with it, in order to ensure efficient and prompt service. Checks issued, as the general board may determine, under the provisions of this subsection, shall show plainly the name of the conference for which the disbursements are made.

3. The general board shall be entitled to collect an annual service fee, figured on a cost basis, for the work specified in the preceding subsection.

4. The general board shall furnish annually to the conference board a report showing full details of the transactions under § 2 of this paragraph.

¶ 1636. *Divided Annuity Responsibility.*—1. The responsibility for annuity for years of approved service of a conference claimant shall rest with the Annual Conference in which the service was performed, or its legal successor.

2. The clearinghouse system of distribution of divided annuity responsibility shall be continued. The clearinghouse figures shall be determined by the General Board of Pensions, subject to such modifications as may be necessitated by the provisions of § 1 above. The general board shall have authority to fix annually in advance the clearinghouse rate of annuity for each Annual Conference. The clearinghouse rate shall be based on a conservative estimate of the prospective income available for distribution and need not coincide with the annuity rate fixed subsequently by the conference. In the event that the conference fixes a higher rate than the clearinghouse rate, the difference shall be paid directly to all claimants within and without the conference.

3. The general board is authorized and empowered to make all the rules concerning details that may be necessary to put this paragraph into effect, and shall determine the distribution of service responsibility for each conference claimant involved in the operation of the clearinghouse.

4. The fiscal year for clearinghouse operations shall be the calendar year.

¶ 1637. *Annuity Responsibility in Missions or Provisional Annual Conferences.*—The responsibility for the annuity on account of years of approved service in a

Mission or Provisional Annual Conference within the United States shall rest jointly with (a) the Mission or Provisional Annual Conference concerned, (b) the General Board of Pensions, and (c) the Division of National Missions. The revenue for annuity purposes covering such service shall be provided by the aforesaid parties in accordance with such plan or plans as may be mutually agreed to by them.

CHAPTER V

MINISTERS RESERVE PENSION FUND

¶ 1642. *Establishment.*—1. A reserve pension system to be called the **Ministers Reserve Pension Fund** of The Methodist Church, hereinafter called the Fund, is hereby established. It shall be administered by the General Board of Pensions in accordance with and subject to the provisions that follow.

2. An Annual or Provisional Annual Conference, hereafter in this chapter called a conference, at any time, on its own determination, by a two-thirds vote of its membership present and voting, may enter the Fund and may actively participate therein when it accepts the conditions and fulfills the requirements herein set forth.

¶ 1643. *Definitions.*—The following definitions shall apply to the interpretation of the plan of the Fund, unless the context plainly indicates otherwise:

1. **Employer** shall mean any connectional board, organization, or institution which receives the services of a member of the Fund in either a pastoral or nonpastoral capacity, and which shall pay therefor any form of salary, compensation, or allowance.

2. **Support** of a member of the Fund shall mean:

a) The sum or sums annually received from a pastoral charge as compensation for his services, plus an amount equivalent to fifteen per cent thereof, if the minister occupy a parsonage free of rent.

b) The salary of a district superintendent received from the district as compensation for his services, plus

an amount equivalent to fifteen per cent thereof if he occupy a district parsonage free of rent.

c) The salary or compensation received by a pastor from a federated or community church, or from a church of another denomination, plus an amount equivalent to fifteen per cent thereof, if he occupy a parsonage free of rent.

d) The financial aid furnished by a missionary board, or other organization, or by the minimum salary fund of the conference.

e) The salary, compensation, or allowance received for services rendered under special episcopal appointment.

3. **Regular interest** shall mean interest, compounded annually, at a rate periodically determined by the general board on the basis of net earnings but not to exceed four per cent per annum.

4. **Service annuity** shall mean an annuity payable quarterly in advance during life, beginning at the date of retirement, to be provided by the Fund on the basis of allocated credits together with the regular interest accumulated thereon. (See ¶¶ 1645, 1653 § 1.)

5. **Income annuity** shall mean an annuity payable quarterly in advance during life, beginning at the date of retirement, to be provided by the Fund on the basis of personal contributions of the member together with the regular interest accumulated thereon.

6. **Pension** shall mean the total of the service annuity and the income annuity.

7. **Widow's pension** shall mean an annuity, payable quarterly in advance, to the widow of a member of the Fund who dies before attaining retirement, to be provided by the Fund on the basis of the personal contributions of the deceased member, together with the regular interest accumulated thereon, plus seventy per cent of the service annuity credits, together with the regular interest accumulated thereon.

8. **Child's annuity** shall mean an annuity payable quarterly in advance to a minor child of a deceased member of the Fund.

9. **Minor child** shall mean a child under twenty-one years of age.

10. The meaning of the word "child" shall be interpreted to include a child legally adopted.

11. **New entrant** shall mean a minister who shall be admitted on trial in an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference on or after the entry of such conference into the Fund, including a minister who on May 1, 1952, was on trial in a conference which prior to that date had entered the Fund. (Approved service on trial, as defined in ¶ 1618 § 2, rendered by a minister who became a member of the Fund prior to May 1, 1952, may be approved for annuity claim under the provision of the pension code, or under the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund as provided in ¶ 1644 § 5.)

12. **Previous entrant** shall mean a minister in good standing on trial or in full membership in an Annual or Provisional Annual Conference prior to the entry of such conference into the Fund.

13. **Pension code** shall mean the rules and regulations concerning pensions and relief contained in ¶¶ 1613-37 inclusive.

¶ 1644. **Membership.**—1. The membership of the Fund shall consist of the new entrants in Annual or Provisional Annual Conferences in the United States of America, and such previous entrants as are received under § 2 below.

2. Previous entrants who are members of conferences participating in the Fund may become members of the Fund by a two-thirds vote of the conference membership present and voting; *provided*, however, that accrued service obligations under the pension code shall be funded for or by such previous entrants, in such manner and amount as shall be satisfactory to the general board.

3. A minister received by transfer into a conference on or after the date of entry of the conference into the Fund shall be classed as a new entrant while serving in such conference; *provided*, however, that members received by transfer past forty years of age shall not be accepted as members of the Fund unless an initial provision for service annuity be made by or for them in such manner and amount as shall be satisfactory to the executive officers of the general board.

4. A member of the Fund shall be classed as a new

entrant while serving in any conference participating in the Fund.

5. The accrued service obligation of a conference under the pension code for a member of the Fund may be funded by such conference upon entry into the Fund in such manner and amount as shall be satisfactory to the executive officers of the general board.

6. When a member of the Fund shall transfer to a conference not participating in the Fund, he shall be subject to the provisions of the pension code for years served in such conference; but upon subsequent entry into a conference participating in the Fund such member shall resume contribution and receive credits therefrom.

¶ 1645. **Contributions by the Conference.**—1. Each conference that hereafter enters the Fund shall contribute annually thereto an amount equivalent to not less than nine per cent of the average salary of the conference (as defined in ¶ 1618 § 6 of the pension code) for each qualified member of the conference who is also a member of the Fund; *provided*, however, that any conference shall continue the rate of contribution in force at the time it entered the Fund, with the right of increasing its rate of contribution to nine per cent, or more, computed on the basis hereinbefore provided.

2. In case of the transfer of a member of the Fund into a conference participating in the Fund the contribution required on behalf of such member shall be proportional to the number of days of service rendered such conference during the conference year in which the transfer shall have been effected.

3. In case of the transfer of a member of the Fund out of a conference participating in the Fund the contribution required on behalf of such member shall be proportional to the number of days of service rendered such conference during the conference year in which the transfer shall have been effected.

4. Each conference shall determine the plan by which it shall secure the annual contribution to the Fund required in § 1 of this paragraph and shall make suitable and adequate provision therefor.

5. Each conference shall collect the contributions due

the Fund, and shall have power to adjudicate all questions in connection therewith.

6. The contributions required in § 1 of this paragraph shall be made to the conference treasurer, or any other officer who may be designated by the conference, who shall transmit the same to the general board within thirty days after the conference session, together with a schedule of information showing the members covered by the payment transmitted.

7. A deficiency in the payment of the annual amount required of a conference shall reduce accordingly the service annuity credits of the members of the Fund in such conference, and also any other benefits provided by the Fund for them, unless otherwise ordered by the conference as provided in § 8.

8. In the event of the failure of a pastoral charge, district, or employer to pay, in whole or in part, the amount apportioned in any year by a conference for the purposes of the Fund, such conference shall reduce equitably the service annuity credit for such year of service of such member of the Fund serving said pastoral charge, district, or employer, and shall advise the general board of its action in the case.

9. Each conference participating in the Fund shall elect quadrennially a Committee on Reserve Pensions, to consist of not fewer than five nor more than nine persons, whose duty it shall be to instruct the newly enrolled members of the Fund concerning its rules and regulations, to cooperate with the general board in obtaining information from members as may be required by the Fund, and to adjudicate matters pertaining to contributions to the Fund; *provided*, however, that the duties of this committee may be delegated to the Conference Board of Pensions.

10. When a member of a conference who is also a member of the Fund is under special appointment without annuity claim upon such conference, the organization he is serving shall contribute annually to the Fund the equivalent of the current contribution made on behalf of each qualified member of the Fund in good standing. Failure to make such contribution in any conference year

shall deprive the appointee concerned of service annuity credit for that conference year.

¶ 1646. *Contributions by Members.*—1. An annual contribution, the equivalent of three per cent of the average salary of the conference (as defined in ¶ 1618 § 6 of the pension code), shall be paid directly to the Fund by each qualified member thereof in quarterly installments, payable in advance in accordance with the schedule of payment dates as determined by the general board; *provided*, however, that if his support (as defined in ¶ 1643 § 2) be less than the average salary of the conference, a member may elect to contribute annually the equivalent of three per cent of such support; and *provided*, furthermore, that by vote of the conference, on recommendation of the Committee on Reserve Pensions, the amounts of the annual contributions required of members of the Fund shall be withheld by the treasurers of the pastoral charges, or other organizations concerned, and remitted directly to the Fund in monthly or quarterly installments. Such contributions shall be applicable to income annuity credit only.*

2. In case a minister transfers into a conference participating in the Fund and, by reason of such transfer, becomes a member of the Fund, the first installment due from him shall be that which next falls due for the members of the Fund in that conference following the date of such transfer.

3. In case a member of the Fund transfers out of a conference participating in the Fund, the last installment due from him while he is a member of such conference shall be that which normally falls due before the date of such transfer.

4. In case the transfer of a member of the Fund is effected between conferences, both of which are participating in the Fund, the amounts of the quarterly installments and the dates upon which installments fall due shall be adjusted in accordance with the schedule of payment dates for such conferences as determined by the general board.

5. If a minister be required to make a contribution to

* Amended in 1956 following Judicial Council Decision 118.

the Fund, he shall not be required by the conference, or by any organization thereof related to the support of conference claimants, to make any other contribution for pension purposes. If he consents to make such other contribution, it shall be voluntary. (See ¶1610 §4.)

6. In any case a minister who has previously obtained membership in the Fund, while he is a member of a conference not participating in the Fund, shall have the right to continue contributions toward the accumulations for providing income annuity.

7. *Additional Member Contributions.*—Subject to such limitations, regulations, and conditions as the general board may adopt, a member of the Fund may pay into the Fund, in addition to the required member contributions such amounts as he may elect for the purpose of providing an income annuity or other benefits additional to the income annuity provided through his regular contributions.

¶1647. *Pensions.*—1. *Service Annuity.*—A member of the Fund who shall have attained age sixty-five or completed forty years of full-time approved service and who shall have been granted the retired relation shall receive thereafter, during his lifetime, a service annuity. Upon the death of a member of the Fund while receiving a service annuity the equivalent of seventy per cent of such annuity shall be continued to his widow, if their marriage took place before the member entered into the service annuity.

The service annuity and the seventy per cent thereof to be continued to the widow shall be the actuarial equivalent of his allocated service annuity credits together with the regular interest accumulated thereon, determined on the basis of the actual ages of the member and his wife at the time of entry into the service annuity.

If at the time of his entry into the service annuity a member be unmarried or a widower, the calculation of the amount of such service annuity shall be made on the basis of assumed equal ages for man and wife.

The service annuity shall be determined according to the tables of annuity rates for such purpose in current use by the general board.

2. *Income Annuity.*—At the same time that a member of the Fund, whether married or single, is granted a service annuity, he shall be entitled to an income annuity of a type identical with his service annuity, the amount thereof to be the actuarial equivalent of his personal contributions to the Fund together with the regular interest accumulated thereon.

The income annuity shall be determined according to the tables of annuity rates for such purpose in current use by the general board.

3. *Income Annuity Credit Guarantee Option.*—At the time of entering upon his pension, a member of the Fund may elect an option under which he shall receive a reduced pension, but with the provision that if the pension payments received by him and his widow aggregate less than his income annuity credits at the time of retirement, there shall be paid to his designated beneficiary or to his estate, as he shall have designated, an amount equivalent to the excess of such income annuity credits over such pension payments.

¶1648. *Widow's Pension.*—1. If a member of the Fund die prior to retirement, his widow shall receive a pension consisting of an income annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of her deceased husband's income annuity credits and a service annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of seventy per cent of his service annuity credits.

2. If the service annuity of a widow be less than \$600, at the discretion of the general board she may be granted annually an additional amount from the Disability, Widows, and Children Fund; *provided*, however, that in such case the total of the service annuity and the grant shall not exceed \$600 per annum. The income annuity payable under the provisions of §1 of this paragraph shall be paid in addition to said service annuity and grant.

¶1649. *Child's Pension.*—1. Each unmarried minor child of a deceased member of the Fund may be granted an annuity of \$150 until attainment of age sixteen, to be discontinued immediately thereafter, unless the child be enrolled and regularly attending a standard school or college.

2. Upon presentation to it annually of a satisfactory certificate of enrollment, attendance, and work done in a standard school or college, the general board may grant an unmarried child of a deceased member of the Fund an annuity of \$300 from age sixteen until attainment of age twenty-one.

¶ 1650. *Limitation of Annual Payments.*—1. If a member of the Fund die prior to retirement, the total of the annual payments thereafter, in any year, to his widow and minor children shall not exceed seventy per cent of the average salary of the conference as defined in the pension code (¶ 1618 § 6).

2. If a member of the Fund die while receiving a pension, the total of the annual payments thereafter, in any year, to his widow and children shall not exceed the annual pension which he was receiving prior to his decease.

¶ 1651. 1. *Disability Benefits.*—a) An annual disability allowance may be given to a disabled member of the Fund under age sixty-five if disability shall have been evident for a period of not less than one hundred eighty days, and the member shall have submitted to such examinations as may be required by the general board, and it shall appear from the reports that his health has failed as a result of a disease or injury, and that presumably he is totally and permanently incapacitated for both ministerial work and the support of his family. This allowance shall not exceed one third of the average salary of the conference as defined in the pension code (¶ 1618 § 6). At the discretion of the general board, the initial payment of the allowance may be made to cover all or any part of the waiting period of one hundred eighty days, or only the period of disability following the termination of the waiting period.

b) During the continuance of his disability, a member of the Fund shall receive an annual allocation to be applied on his service annuity credit, equivalent to the current service annuity credit in the conference of which he is a member, said allocation to be provided from the disability fund.

c) When recommended by the general board, the continuation of the above disability benefits (§§ 1a, 1b) shall

be subject to the yearly approval of the member's conference.

d) During the continuance of his disability, a member of the Fund shall be exempt from the requirement to contribute to the Fund, but when his disability has been terminated and he has entered into a salaried relationship with a pastoral charge, district, or employer, he shall resume contributions to the Fund.

e) If a disabled member of the Fund recover sufficiently to resume ministerial work or to engage in a remunerative occupation, his disability allowance may be reduced or terminated by the general board at its discretion.

f) During the continuance of his disability, the member may be required, at the discretion of the general board, while still under age sixty-five, to have a medical examination at any time by a physician appointed to act in behalf of the general board.

g) If disability continue until age sixty-five, the disability benefits shall terminate, and thereafter a disabled member of the Fund shall receive his pension, according to the provisions of ¶ 1647.

2. *Death Benefit.*—When a member of the Fund dies, a benefit may be paid in one sum out of the Contingent Fund to his widow, if any, in accordance with rules and regulations which shall be adopted by the general board.

¶ 1652. *Refunds.*—1. On ceasing to be a member of a conference prior to retirement, a member of the Fund shall receive as a refund, in lieu of all other benefits, a sum equivalent to the total of his own contributions to the Fund, together with the regular interest accumulated thereon; *provided*, however, that if such member enter the ministry of another church or denomination, and allow his accumulated income annuity credits to remain in the Fund, then his accumulated income annuity credits and service annuity credits shall be applied in accordance with the provisions set forth in ¶¶ 1647-48; and *provided*, furthermore, that the exercise of this privilege shall not confer any right to make a claim on the Fund for disability or other benefits not specifically provided for in this paragraph.

2. On his ceasing to be a member of a conference after retirement, the service annuity shall cease automatically and the income annuity shall be commuted in the form of a cash settlement to be actuarially determined and made by the general board.

3. If a member of the Fund die prior to receipt of any installment of his income annuity, and without leaving a widow or minor child or children, there shall be refunded to his estate a sum equivalent to the total of his contributions to the Fund, together with the regular interest accumulated thereon.

4. If the widow of a member of the Fund remarry, the service annuity shall cease automatically, and the income annuity shall be commuted in the form of a cash settlement to be actuarially determined and made by the general board; this shall apply to a surviving widow of a member who dies while in the retired relation, as well as to a widow of a member who dies prior to retirement.

¶ 1653. *Funds.*—1. The annual contributions required in ¶ 1645 § 1, up to and including nine per cent of the average salary of the conference, shall be appropriated for the purposes of the Fund according to the following percentages:

Service Annuity Fund	70%
Disability, Widows, and Children Fund	27%
Contingent Fund	3%

The amount of the contributions in excess of nine per cent of the average salary of the conference shall be allocated to the Service Annuity Fund.

2. The seventy per cent of the contributions of each conference for the Service Annuity Fund shall be apportioned equally among its members in the effective relation and probationers who shall be also members of the Fund, except as provided in ¶ 1645 §§ 7, 8, 10, and shall be allocated to each of them annually. The amounts so allocated together with the regular interest thereon shall be held by the general board for the service annuities described in ¶ 1647 § 1.

3. The twenty-seven per cent of the contributions of the conferences for the Disability, Widows, and Children

Fund shall be administered by the general board as indicated in ¶ 1647-51.

4. The three per cent of the contributions of the conferences for the Contingent Fund shall be administered by the general board as hereinafter provided.

5. A Contingent Fund shall be created and administered by the general board to which shall be credited:

a) The three per cent of the conference contributions provided in §§ 1, 4 of this paragraph.

b) The excess interest earnings above regular interest in any of the other funds.

c) The service annuity credits released when a minister ceases to be a member of the Fund.

d) Any resources of the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund not otherwise designated or allocated.

6. The Contingent Fund shall be used at the discretion of the general board in such ways and for such purposes as in its judgment shall best serve the interests for which the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund is created.

¶ 1654. *Initial Reserve Fund.*—1. Each conference entering the Fund shall be required to provide an initial reserve fund for the liabilities assumed on account of new entrants. The amount of such initial reserve fund, the conditions of its actuarial calculation, and the manner of financing its liabilities shall be determined by the general board on request of the conference concerned.

2. The initial reserve fund and the earnings therefrom shall be used exclusively for the financing of the aforesaid liabilities.

¶ 1655. *Authorization.*—1. The general board is authorized, instructed, and empowered to put the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund plan as herein set forth into operation in any conference after such conference shall have decided to enter and shall have made provision for the requisite initial reserve fund specified herein.

2. The general board is hereby authorized to act as a reserve funding agency for such conferences as may desire to transfer to it any or all of their obligations for previous entrants under the pension code at a fixed rate of annuity per year of service.

3. The general board is hereby authorized to administer

the Fund and to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for its efficient operation, subject to the limitation that this power shall not be exercised so as to nullify any of the provisions of the plan.

¶ 1656. *Partial Reserve Funding.*—The general board may make provision for partial reserve funding of annuities payable under the pension code as described in ¶¶ 1613-37.

1. An Annual or Provisional Annual Conference, at any time, on its own determination, by a two-thirds vote of its membership present and voting, may actively participate in the Partial Reserve Pension Fund, hereafter in this paragraph referred to as the Fund, when it accepts the conditions and fulfills the requirements set forth.

2. *Membership.*—a) The membership of the Fund shall consist of the ministers who are on trial or in full connection in a conference which is actively participating in the Fund, and who are not members of the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund.

b) When a member of the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund is received by transfer into a conference participating in the Partial Reserve Pension Fund, but not in the Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, he shall be subject to the provisions of the Partial Reserve Pension Fund for the years served in such conference. (See ¶ 1644 § 3.)

3. *Contributions by the Conference.*—a) Each conference participating in the Fund shall contribute annually to the credit of each qualified member of the Fund such sum as it may designate, based on a percentage of the average salary of the conference (as defined in the pension code, ¶ 1618 § 6).

b) Each conference shall determine the plan by which it shall secure the amount necessary to make the contributions required in § 3a and shall make suitable and adequate provision therefor.

c) A deficiency in the payment of the annual amount required of a conference shall reduce accordingly the credits of the members of the Fund in such conference.

d) The provisions in ¶ 1645 §§ 2, 3 shall determine the amount of contribution to the credit of a member of the

Fund transferring into or out of a conference actively participating in the Fund.

4. *Contributions by Members.*—a) An annual contribution, the equivalent of three per cent of the average salary of the conference (as defined in ¶ 1618 § 6 of the pension code), shall be paid directly to the Fund by each qualified member thereof in quarterly installments, payable in advance in accordance with the schedule of payment dates as determined by the general board; *provided*, however, that if his support (as defined in ¶ 1643 § 2) be less than the average salary of the conference, a member may elect to contribute annually the equivalent of three per cent of such support; and *provided*, furthermore, that by vote of the conference, on recommendation of the Committee on Reserve Pensions, the amounts of the annual contributions required of members of the Fund shall be withheld by the treasurers of the pastoral charges, or other organizations concerned, and remitted directly to the Fund in monthly or quarterly installments. Such contributions shall be applicable to income annuity credit only.

b) The provisions of ¶ 1646 §§ 2-4 shall determine the amount and the date of payment of the contribution required of a member who transfers into or out of a conference actively participating in the Fund.

c) A member of the Fund, while he is a member of a conference not participating in the Fund, shall have the right to continue contributions toward the accumulations for providing income annuity.

5. *Additional Member Contributions.*—Subject to such limitations, regulations and conditions as the general board may adopt, a member of the Fund may pay into the Fund, in addition to the required member contributions, such amounts as he may elect for the purpose of providing an income annuity or other benefits additional to the income annuity provided through his regular contributions.

6. *Committee on Reserve Pensions.*—Each conference participating in the Fund shall elect quadrennially a **Committee on Reserve Pensions**, to consist of not fewer than five nor more than nine persons, whose duty it shall

be to instruct the newly enrolled members of the Fund concerning its rules and regulations, to cooperate with the general board in obtaining information from members as may be required by the Fund, and to adjudicate matters pertaining to contributions to the Fund; *provided*, however, that the duties of this committee may be delegated to the Conference Board of Pensions; and *provided*, furthermore, that this committee shall be the same as that provided for in ¶ 1645 § 9 if and when such a committee has been set up.

7. *Initial Reserve Fund.*—a) A conference participating in the Fund may provide an **initial reserve fund** from which there shall be allocated the annual contributions to the credit of the members of the Fund as required in § 3a.

b) The amount of such initial reserve fund shall be determined by the general board on request of the conference concerned.

c) The initial reserve fund and the earnings therefrom shall be used exclusively in financing the aforesaid annual contributions.

d) The general board shall determine the circumstances under which an initial reserve fund shall be required of a conference in order to participate in the Fund.

8. *Pensions.*—a) *Service Annuity.*—A member of the Fund who shall have attained age sixty-five and who shall have been granted the retired relation shall receive thereafter, during his lifetime, a service annuity. Upon the death of a member of the Fund while receiving a service annuity the equivalent of seventy per cent of such annuity shall be continued to his widow, if their marriage took place before the member entered into the service annuity.

The service annuity and the seventy per cent thereof to be continued to the widow shall be the actuarial equivalent of his allocated service annuity credits together with the regular interest accumulated thereon, determined on the basis of the actual ages of the member and his wife at the time of entry into the service annuity.

b) A conference participating in the Fund may regard the service annuity based on the contributions made by such conference as a part of the annuity provided for a

conference claimant by such conference under the pension code (¶¶ 1619, 1620, 1631).

c) *Income Annuity.*—At the same time that a member of the Fund is granted a service annuity, he shall be entitled to an income annuity of a type identical with his service annuity, the amount thereof to be the actuarial equivalent of his personal contributions to the Fund together with the regular interest accumulated thereon. The income annuity payable under the provisions of this section shall be considered as an addition to the pension normally provided under the pension code.

d) The service annuity and the income annuity shall be determined according to the tables of annuity rates for such purpose in current use by the general board.

e) *Income Annuity Credit Guarantee Option.*—At the time of entering upon his pension, a member of the Fund may elect an option under which he shall receive a reduced pension, but with the provision that if the pension payments received by him and his widow aggregate less than his income annuity credits at the time of retirement, there shall be paid to his designated beneficiary or to his estate, as he shall have designated, an amount equivalent to the excess of such income annuity credits over such pension payments.

9. *Widow's Pension.*—If a member of the Fund die prior to retirement, a pension shall be paid to his widow, based on her age and provided by the total of her deceased husband's personal contributions together with the regular interest accumulated thereon, plus seventy per cent of his service annuity credits together with the regular interest accumulated thereon at the time of his death.

10. *Death Benefit.*—When a member of the Fund dies, a benefit may be paid in one sum out of the Contingent Fund to his widow, if any, in accordance with rules and regulations which shall be adopted by the general board.

11. *Refunds.*—The regulations concerning refunds as provided in ¶ 1652 shall apply in the Partial Reserve Pension Fund. Participation in this Fund does not imply any right of the participant to make a claim on the

general board for disability or other benefits not specifically provided for in this paragraph.

12. A Contingent Fund shall be created and administered by the general board for the Partial Reserve Pension Fund, to which shall be credited:

a) The excess interest earnings above regular interest credited.

b) The service annuity credits released when a minister ceases to be a member of the Fund.

c) Any resources of the Partial Reserve Pension Fund not otherwise designated or allocated.

The Contingent Fund shall be used at the discretion of the general board in such ways and for such purposes as in its judgment shall best serve the interests of the Fund.

13. The general board is hereby authorized to administer the Fund and to adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for its efficient operation, subject to the limitation that this power shall not be exercised so as to nullify any of the Disciplinary provisions of the plan.

¶1657. The general board shall have authority to make special arrangements with conferences whereby partial reserve funding of the pensions for full-time approved supply pastors can be accomplished along lines similar to those hereinbefore described in ¶1656.

CHAPTER VI

LAY EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND

¶1658. 1. *Establishment.*—a) A pension fund to be known and designated as **Lay Employees Pension Fund** of The Methodist Church, hereinafter called the Fund, is hereby established.

b) The purpose of the Fund shall be to provide annuities for lay employees of local churches, boards, commissions, agencies, institutions, and organizations in the United States of America listed in the book of Discipline of The Methodist Church or in the directory printed in the journal of any Annual Conference of The Methodist Church situated in the United States of America.

c) The Fund shall be held, administered, and disbursed by the General Board of Pensions of The Methodist Church.

2. *Definitions.*—a) **Employer** shall mean any unit of The Methodist Church covered in §1b above which employs lay persons.

b) **Participating employer** shall mean any such employer which elects to participate in the Fund and contributes thereto as provided in §3a.

c) **Lay employee** shall mean an employee other than a minister, a probationer for the ministry, or an approved supply pastor.

d) **Participating lay employee** shall mean a lay employee of a participating employer who is eligible under the provisions of §3d and contributes to the fund as provided in §3b.

3. *Contributions.*—a) Any employer as defined in §2a above may become a participating employer by indicating its intention so to do on appropriate forms provided therefor, and contributing to the Fund annually a sum equivalent to not less than six per cent (6%) of the amount of compensation paid to its participating lay employees except as hereinafter provided in §3c. If house rent, board, lodging, or similar accommodations be furnished a participating lay employee by a participating employer, then a sum equivalent to the reasonable value thereof shall be added to the amount of compensation aforesaid for the purpose of computing said contribution.

b) Each participating employer shall deduct from the compensation of its participating lay employees at the time such compensation is paid, and the accommodations set forth in §3a are furnished, a sum equivalent to not less than three per cent (3%) of the same amount used in the computation set forth in §3a, except as hereinafter provided in §3c, which sum shall be forwarded to the general board concurrently with the contribution set forth in §3a.

c) The minimum amount of the contribution required of a participating employer as set forth in §3a and the minimum amount of the contribution required of a participating lay employee as set forth in §3b may be ad-

justed by agreement with the general board if and when such participating employer and such participating lay employee are concurrently participating in some other pension program in addition to the Lay Employees Pension Fund.

d) To be eligible to become a participating lay employee, a lay employee must reside in the United States of America and must have been employed by a participating employer for at least one continuous year; *provided*, however, that at the request of both employer and employee he may become eligible at an earlier date, on such conditions as shall be established in regulations which shall be adopted by the general board; and *provided*, furthermore, that after he shall have become a participating lay employee, if both employer and employee shall contribute the amounts provided for in §§ 3a and 3b on such basis, he shall participate in the plan from the first day of his employment.

e) Any participating employer may contribute to the Fund, for the credit of any of its participating lay employees on account of his service rendered in prior years to such participating employer, such amount as may be agreed upon between such participating employer and the general board.

f) The participating employer shall remit quarterly or monthly to the Fund the amounts contributed by such participating employer as provided in § 3a and the amounts deducted from the compensation of its participating lay employees as provided in § 3b.

4. *Change of Employment.*—a) If an employee change participating employers, his employment shall be considered as being uninterrupted for the purpose of his participation in the Fund.

b) If any participating lay employee removes his residence to a foreign country, then the respective contributions of such employee and his employer shall cease, but his credit in the Fund shall remain therein until his retirement.

5. *Absence on Leave.*—The absence of a lay employee from the service of a participating employer shall not affect his right to become a participating lay employee

in the Fund, and the absence of a participating lay employee from the service of a participating employer shall not affect his right to participate in the Fund, provided that any such lay employee or participating lay employee, as the case may be, is on leave of absence.

6. *Retirement.*—a) When a participating lay employee attains age sixty, or at any time thereafter, he may retire, or the participating employer may retire him. If a participating lay employee becomes totally and permanently disabled prior to attainment of age sixty and shall furnish a certificate of a physician to such effect, he may retire at the then attained age; or if a participating lay employee's health is impaired or he is disabled, in the sole judgment of the participating employer, then the participating employer may retire him. Upon such retirement of a participating lay employee, voluntarily or involuntarily, there shall be paid to him an annuity on the basis of the aggregate amount of moneys standing to his credit on the books of the Fund upon the date of retirement, according to the table of annuity rates for such purpose in current use by the general board for the Fund.

b) If at the time of retirement a participating lay employee so request, subject to the approval of the general board, a joint and survivorship annuity may be paid to such participating lay employee and his or her spouse, or to such participating lay employee and some other person designated by the employee. Such annuity shall be computed on the same actuarial basis as provided for in § 6a.

7. *Death.*—A participating lay employee shall have the right to designate a beneficiary of the aggregate amount of moneys standing to his credit on the books of the Fund in the event of his death prior to his retirement. In the event of the death of a participating lay employee prior to his retirement, then the said sum standing to his credit on the books of the Fund shall be paid to the beneficiary so designated, if any; otherwise to the executor or administrator of the estate of such participating lay employee.

8. *Termination of Employment.*—a) If the employment of any participating lay employee shall be terminated

prior to his retirement, the aggregate amount of his contributions, together with the interest credited thereon, shall be returned to him, and thereupon he shall have no further interest in or claim upon the Fund; *provided*, however, that if he allows his contributions to remain in the Fund until he attains age sixty, then the contributions made by the participating employer on his account shall likewise remain in the Fund, and when he attains age sixty, the aggregate sum standing to his credit on the books of the Fund shall be used to provide an annuity for him on the same basis as set forth in §§ 6a and 6b.

b) If the employment of any participating lay employee shall be terminated and the general board shall return his contributions, as provided in § 8a, the actual amount of the contributions made by the participating employer on his account shall be returned to the employer.

9. *Accounting and Reports.*—a) The sums set forth in §§ 3a and 3b, together with a statement setting forth the name of each participating lay employee, the amount contributed by the participating employer for each employee, the amount contributed by each employee, the total amount to be credited to each employee, and such other information as may be required by the general board shall be forwarded by each participating employer to the said board, from time to time, as the board may require. Such statements of the participating employer shall be final.

b) The books and records of the general board pertaining to the Fund shall show the amounts of the respective contributions by each participating lay employee and by each participating employer for the account of each such employee and the allocation of interest on account of such respective amounts.

c) Within a reasonable time after the close of each fiscal year of the general board it shall transmit to each participating employer a financial report concerning the Fund. It shall transmit concurrently therewith to each such employer statements showing the amounts credited to the account of each participating lay employee of that employer, which statements shall be distributed by the employer to its respective participating lay employees.

10. *Certificates.*—The general board shall issue to each

participating lay employee a **certificate of participation**. It shall also provide for each a copy of the rules of the Fund affecting participating lay employees which it may publish from time to time.

11. *Fees.*—Each participating employer shall pay annually to the general board on account of each participating lay employee the sum of three dollars (\$3.00).

12. *Allocation of Interest.*—The general board shall have the sole and exclusive right to determine the amount of interest which shall be credited annually at the close of its fiscal year to the accounts of the participating lay employees.

13. *Forms.*—The general board, for purposes of the administration of the Fund, may prescribe such forms as it deems fit.

14. *Rules.*—The general board shall have authority to adopt rules, and, from time to time, to change, modify, amend, alter, and supplement the same, for the administration of the Fund, which rules shall be binding upon participating employers and participating lay employees alike.

¶1659. 1. Effective June 1, 1948, any person then resident within the United States who was then serving as a secretary of an effective bishop of The Methodist Church, or who had previously served as a secretary to an effective bishop or bishops of The Methodist Church and was then serving or thereafter shall serve in any form of employment connected with The Methodist Church, upon retirement or being no longer in the employ of a bishop, board, or agency of The Methodist Church and upon attainment of age sixty shall be entitled to make an annuity claim upon the Episcopal Fund for the secretarial service rendered an effective bishop or bishops prior to June 1, 1948.

2. The bishops or boards or agencies respectively shall be responsible for informing their employees concerning their pension rights under this paragraph and shall notify all who are involved in providing the pension.

3. Effective June 1, 1952, the full-time lay employees of an effective bishop resident in the United States of America shall be enrolled as participating lay employees

in the Lay Employees Pension Fund of The Methodist Church, in accordance with the rules and regulations of said Fund as set forth in ¶ 1658.

4. As the participating employer of such participating lay employees the bishop shall deduct the required contributions from the compensation of such participating lay employees and shall forward such amounts concurrently with the required employer's contributions to the Fund; *provided*, however, that the employer's contributions shall be paid from the allowances made by the Episcopal Fund or other sources for office expense of the bishop.

5. Effective June 1, 1952, the General Board of Pensions shall transfer the individual accounts held for secretaries, assistant secretaries, or other office employees of a bishop, together with accrued interest, to the Lay Employees Pension Fund, and thereafter such employees shall be enrolled as participating lay employees in the Lay Employees Pension Fund, as provided in § 3 of this paragraph.

CHAPTER VII

EPISCOPAL PENSIONS

¶ 1661. The provisions regarding pensions for retired bishops, and for the widows and minor children of deceased bishops, are set forth in ¶¶ 774-77 under Part V, Temporal Economy.

CHAPTER VIII

COMMITTEE ON PENSION LEGISLATION

¶ 1665. The General Board of Pensions shall appoint from its membership a **Committee on Pension Legislation** for the quadrennium 1956-60, which shall consist of one bishop, and one minister and one layman from each jurisdiction, whose responsibility it shall be to study the operation of the various pension programs of The Methodist Church and to present recommendations to the

General Conference of 1960. Special consideration shall be given to the feasibility and desirability of the following: (1) providing for minimum pensions for ministers and widows of ministers; (2) permitting an Annual Conference to recognize an annuity claim of the divorced wife of a ministerial member or former ministerial member of the conference; (3) granting to the widow of a minister the right to share in her deceased husband's annuity claim on some basis beyond that provided by her own years of approved service—whether under a plan like that set forth in ¶ 777 or some other.

PART IX BOUNDARIES

CHAPTER I

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES

¶ 1701. The boundaries for the Jurisdictional Conferences are set forth in the Constitution. (¶ 26.)

CHAPTER II

ANNUAL CONFERENCES, PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES, AND MISSIONS

SECTION I. Conferences of the Northeastern Jurisdiction

¶ 1714. This jurisdiction comprises the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia; the District of Columbia; and Puerto Rico.

¶ 1715. BALTIMORE CONFERENCE shall include the District of Columbia; the western shore of Maryland (except that part of Garrett County lying west of the dividing ridge of the Allegheny Mountains); so much of Pennsylvania as lies within Hancock, Flintstone, Union Grove, Hyndman, Warfordsburg, and Elerslie Circuits; and including Delta, Mount Nebo, Fawn Grove, Maryland Line, and Bedford Circuits of the former Maryland Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church; and the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan and the town of Ridgely in West Virginia.

¶ 1716. CENTRAL NEW YORK CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the west by the west lines of the towns of Williamson, Marion, and Palmyra in Wayne County, and of the towns of Farmington and Canandaigua in Ontario County, and of Yates, Schuyler, and Chemung Counties; and in Pennsylvania by the railroad running from Lawrenceville to Blossburg, including Mansfield and Blossburg Charges; on the south by Central Pennsylvania Conference; on the east by Wyoming and Northern New York Conferences; on the north by Northern New York Conference and Lake Ontario.

¶ 1717. CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the south by the state line from the Susquehanna River to the west boundary of Bedford County, excepting Union Mills, Maryland, now part of the Littlestown Charge, and so much of Pennsylvania as is included in the Baltimore Conference; on the west by the west line of the counties of Bedford, Blair, that part of Cambria County not included in the Pittsburgh Conference, namely: Patton, Hastings, Bakerton, and Barnesboro, including Cherry Tree and Glen Campbell and Smithport in Indiana County, Clearfield County, north to Saint Marys, excepting so much of Clearfield County as is embraced in the Erie Conference; on the north by a line extending from Saint Marys eastward to Emporium, including the territory formerly embraced by the Keating Summit Circuit; thence by the southern boundary of Potter and Tioga Counties, including Austin, Morris, and the territory formerly embraced by Costello, Wharton Circuit, Cross Fork, Hammersly Fort Circuit, Blackwell, and Liberty Valley Circuits; thence along the north line of Sullivan County to the west line of Wyoming County; thence on the east by the present limits of the Wyoming Conference, being the east line of Sullivan County, to the north line of Columbia County; thence by a line southeasterly through Luzerne County to the north line of the Philadelphia Conference, near White Haven; thence on the south by the northern line of Carbon, Schuylkill, and Dauphin Counties to the Susquehanna River, including Hickory Run, Weatherly, Beaver Meadows, and Ashland; and thence by the Susquehanna River to the

place of beginning, including Harrisburg and that additional part of Dauphin County east from the city limits on the north to and including Paxtonia, thence southward to Rutherford, thence west to the city of Harrisburg. (See ¶ 2009 § 1.)

¶ 1718. ERIE CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by Lake Erie; on the east by a line commencing at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek; thence up said creek to Gowanda, leaving said town in the Genesee Conference; thence to the Allegheny River at the mouth of Tunungwant Creek; thence up said creek southward, excluding the city of Bradford on said creek, to the ridge dividing between the waters of Clarion and Sinnemahoning Creek; thence southward to Mahoning Creek; thence down said creek to the Allegheny River, excluding the Milton Society, but including Valier and the Horatio Society, and Hamilton in the Valier Charge, the Putneyville Society in the Putneyville Circuit, and that portion of the borough of Punxsutawney lying south and east of Mahoning Creek; thence across said river in a westerly direction to the southwest corner of Lawrence County, including Wampum; thence along the Ohio state line to the place of beginning, excluding Orangeville Church.

¶ 1719. GENESEE CONFERENCE shall include all that part of the state of New York lying west of the Central New York Conference except those parts of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties which are now included in the Erie Conference. It shall also include Gowanda and Corning, in the state of New York, and so much of Tioga County, including Tioga Charge, in the state of Pennsylvania, as is not embraced in the Central New York Conference; also so much of Potter County in the state of Pennsylvania, as is not included in the Central Pennsylvania Conference; also including so much of McKean County, in the state of Pennsylvania, as is embraced in the Olean District, including the city of Bradford; also the Negro work in the city of Buffalo.

¶ 1720. MAINE CONFERENCE shall include all Maine and Berlin and Gorham in New Hampshire.

¶ 1721. NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE shall include all Massachusetts east of the Green Mountains not included

in the New Hampshire and the New England Southern Conferences.

¶ 1722. NEW ENGLAND SOUTHERN CONFERENCE shall include that part of Connecticut lying east of the Connecticut River, the state of Rhode Island, with the town of Blackstone in Massachusetts, and that part of the state of Massachusetts south of the towns of Wrentham, Walpole, Dedham, Milton, and Quincy.

¶ 1723. NEW HAMPSHIRE CONFERENCE shall include all New Hampshire except Berlin and Gorham, that part of Massachusetts north of the Merrimac River and outside the city of Lowell, and Canaan Charge in Vermont.

¶ 1724. NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE shall include that part of New Jersey lying south of the following line, namely: commencing at Raritan Bay; thence up said bay and river to New Brunswick, at a point opposite the easterly boundary of the borough of Highland Park, thence along the easterly, northerly, and westerly boundaries of said borough to the Raritan River; thence along the Raritan River to the westerly limits of the city of New Brunswick, thence southwest in a straight line to Lambertville on the Delaware River, including the city of New Brunswick, the borough of Highland Park, and Lambertville Station.

¶ 1725. NEW YORK CONFERENCE shall consist of the territory now in the New York, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Kingston Districts, including Five Points Mission, Otisville, and Brooksville, and including such new Negro work within its boundaries as shall be organized by the conference after July 1, 1948.¹

¶ 1726. NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE shall include Long Island; those charges in Manhattan and Bronx east of South Ferry, Whitehall Street, Broadway, Park Row, Chatham Square, Bowery, Third Avenue to Pelham Avenue; west to the Harlem Railroad track; north to Mount Vernon; thence including Mount Vernon; New Rochelle, Mamaroneck, Harrison, and all between them and Long Island Sound to the Connecticut line; thence following the state line, including Pound Ridge, to Sharon Town-

¹ The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference of 1948 authorized the merger of the New York and New York East Conferences if and when the two conferences agree that a merger is desirable.

ship; east to Winchester, excluding North Goshen; north to the state line; east to the Connecticut River, and following the river to the sound, and also excepting Five Points Mission; and such new Negro work within its boundaries as shall be organized by the conference after July 1, 1948.²

¶ 1727. NEWARK CONFERENCE shall include that part of the state of New Jersey not included in the New Jersey Conference, with the borough of Richmond, city of New York, in the state of New York, and such portions of Rockland, Orange, and Sullivan Counties, in the state of New York, as lie south and west of a line extending from Tomkins Cove, on the Hudson River, intersecting the New Jersey state line at a point south of Sloatsburg, excluding Otisville and West Brooksville; thence along said state line to the Wallkill River; thence due north, intersecting the Erie Railroad at a point west of Middletown; thence in a northwesterly direction to a point where the Port Jervis and Monticello Railroad crosses the northern line of Forestburg Township in Sullivan County; thence southwest to a point on the Delaware River below Lackawaxen, in Pennsylvania; also such portions of Pike and Monroe Counties, in the state of Pennsylvania, as lie north of the Philadelphia Conference and east of the Wyoming Conference, the same being now included in the Matamoras, Milford, Dingmans, and Coolbaugh Charges, with the exception of Middle Smithfield and Sand Hill.

¶ 1728. NORTHERN NEW YORK CONFERENCE shall include so much of the county of Franklin as is not within the Troy Conference; and the counties of Saint Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and Herkimer; and all of Oswego County except Phoenix; and so much of the county of Madison as lies on and east of the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad; together with Cherry Valley, Springfield, Richfield Springs, and Salt Springville in Otsego County; Saint Johnsville in Montgomery County; and Lassellsville, Oppenheim, and Stratford in Fulton County.

¶ 1729. PENINSULA CONFERENCE shall include Delaware,

² See footnote to ¶ 1725.

and the counties of Maryland lying east of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay.

¶ 1730. PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Delaware River; on the south by the Pennsylvania state line; on the west by the Susquehanna River, excluding Harrisburg and the adjoining part of Dauphin County, extending east to Paxtonia and Rutherford, included in the Central Pennsylvania Conference; on the north by the north line of Dauphin, Schuylkill, Carbon, and Monroe Counties, excepting Ashland, and the Beaver Meadows Circuit, and including Middle Smithfield and Sand Hill.

¶ 1731. PITTSBURGH CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by the Erie Conference; on the east by the Central Pennsylvania Conference; on the south by the West Virginia Conference; on the west by the North-East Ohio Conference.

¶ 1732. TROY CONFERENCE shall include that portion of the state of New York embraced in the counties of Rensselaer, Washington, Clinton, Essex, Warren, Saratoga, Schenectady, Montgomery (except Saint Johnsville), Fulton (except the towns of Oppenheim and Stratford), Albany (except Coeymans Hollow and South Bethlehem), Schoharie (except Blenheim, Charlottesvile, Eminence, Gilboa, Livingstonville, Summit, and West Fulton); in Columbia County, the towns of Stuyvesant, Kinderhook, New Lebanon, and Chatham (except Chatham Village and East Chatham); in Franklin County, the towns of Standish, Saranac Lake, and the appointments connected with Bloomingdale Circuit; in Hamilton County, the towns of Benson, Hope, Wells, Indian Lake, Long Lake, and Blue Mountain Lake; and in Otsego County, Center Valley; also in Massachusetts all that part of Berkshire County lying upon the line of the Boston & Albany Railroad, and north of said line; also all of Vermont except Canaan Charge.

¶ 1733. WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE shall include West Virginia, except the town of Ridgely and the counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Brooke, and Hancock; and shall also include that part of Garrett County, Maryland,

lying west of the dividing ridge of the Allegheny Mountains.

¶ 1734. WYOMING CONFERENCE shall include that portion of the southern part of the state of New York which is not included in the New York, New York East, Newark, Central New York, and Genesee Conferences; and that part of the state of Pennsylvania which is bounded on the west by Central New York Conference, including the territory east of the Susquehanna River, and on the south by the Central Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and Newark Conferences, including Narrowsburg, and on the east by the Newark and New York Conferences.

¶ 1735. PUERTO RICO PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include Puerto Rico and the adjacent islands belonging to its civil jurisdiction, together with any work which may be established by The Methodist Church or come under its care in any of the islands known as the West Indies, except in the Republic of Cuba.

SEC. II. Conferences of the Southeastern Jurisdiction

¶ 1740. This jurisdiction comprises the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky; and the Republic of Cuba.

¶ 1741. ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE shall include West Florida (except Apalachicola), and all Alabama lying south of the following boundary line: beginning at the southwest corner of Pickens County; thence along the south of Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties, and a direct line on the same parallel of latitude, east to the Coosa River; thence down that river to the southern boundary of Coosa County; thence east by that county line, and through Tallapoosa County to the south of Chambers County, and by that county line to Georgia; except that part of Sumter County, north of the Noxubee River, which is in the North Alabama Conference.

¶ 1742. FLORIDA CONFERENCE shall include all Florida not included in the Alabama-West Florida Conference, including our Latin work.

¶ 1743. HOLSTON CONFERENCE shall include that part of

Tennessee east of the eastern boundary of the Tennessee Conference and that part of Virginia west of the New River to Radford (including the Big Stony Creek appointment), and all the territory in Montgomery and Floyd Counties in the Holston Conference of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and all of Dade County, Georgia, and the Lookout Mountain Circuit, and the towns of Flintstone and Rossville in Georgia.

¶ 1744. KENTUCKY CONFERENCE shall embrace all Kentucky lying north and east of the following line: beginning at the mouth of Harrod's Creek, on the Ohio River; thence south on the southern line of the Middletown and Jeffersontown Circuits, to the Bardstown turnpike; thence with the turnpike to Bardstown; thence with the direct road to Springfield; thence to the towns of Hayesville and Liberty; thence south to the Cumberland River; thence up the river to the fork; thence up South Fork to Tennessee, including Liberty, and the strip lying between the Wolf River and Kentucky.³

¶ 1745. LOUISVILLE CONFERENCE shall embrace all Kentucky which is not included in the Memphis and Kentucky Conferences.⁴

¶ 1746. MEMPHIS CONFERENCE shall be bounded by the Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers, and by the line between the states of Tennessee and Mississippi.

¶ 1747. MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE shall embrace that part of Mississippi south of the southern boundaries of Washington, Holmes, Attala, Winston, and Noxubee Counties, and that part of Humphreys County formerly embraced in Yazoo County, and that part of Holmes County in which the Thornton Church is located.

¶ 1748. NORTH ALABAMA CONFERENCE shall embrace all Alabama not included in the Alabama Conference.

¶ 1749. NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean; thence along the southern line of Virginia to the eastern line of Rockingham County, North Carolina, excluding New Hope

³ The Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of 1948 authorized the union of the Kentucky and Louisville Conferences if and when the majority of both conferences vote in favor of the merger.

⁴ See footnote to ¶ 1744.

Church, in Hertford County, North Carolina, also Knott's Island and Currituck Inlet Churches in Currituck County, North Carolina; thence south with the eastern boundary of Rockingham, Guilford, and Randolph Counties to the southern boundary of Randolph County, excluding Pelham Church in Caswell County; thence west with the southern boundary of Randolph County to the Uwharrie River; thence with that river to its junction with the Yadkin River; thence with the Yadkin and Pee Dee Rivers to South Carolina, and thence along that state line to the Atlantic Ocean.

¶ 1750. NORTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE shall embrace all Georgia (except a small part heretofore described as in the Holston Conference) which lies north of the following line beginning at the Chattahoochee River, at Pine Mountain, and running along that mountain to the Flint River; thence down that river to the southern line of Upson County; thence along the southern line of Monroe County to the Ocmulgee River; thence along the south line of Jones, Baldwin, Hancock, Warren, and Richmond Counties to the Savannah River.

¶ 1751. NORTH MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE shall include all Mississippi not included in the Mississippi Conference.

¶ 1752. SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall include all of South Carolina.

¶ 1753. SOUTH GEORGIA CONFERENCE shall include all Georgia south of the southern line of the North Georgia Conference.

¶ 1754. TENNESSEE CONFERENCE shall include Middle Tennessee from the Tennessee River eastward to the western boundary of the counties of Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Rhea, Roane, Morgan, and Scott—Monteagle, in Marion County, and Bethel, in Sequatchie County, being included in the Tennessee Conference.

¶ 1755. VIRGINIA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, embracing that part of the state of Virginia which is on the Eastern Shore; on the north by the Potomac River; thence following the West Virginia state line to the line of the Holston Conference; thence south to the northern border of the Western North Carolina Conference; thence east along

the northern border of the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences to the Atlantic Ocean.

¶ 1756. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall include all North Carolina west of the North Carolina Conference, except Savannah Church, in Alleghany County, North Carolina; and also that part of North Carolina lying north of the New River, and including that part of Virginia lying south of that river in the loop in Grayson County, Virginia; including all the territory in Carroll and Patrick Counties, Virginia, south of the crest of the Blue Ridge and west of the Dan River.

¶ 1757. CUBA CONFERENCE shall include the work in the Republic of Cuba.

SEC. III. Conferences of the Central Jurisdiction

¶ 1766. This jurisdiction comprises the Negro Annual Conferences and the Negro Provisional Annual Conferences and Missions in the United States of America.

¶ 1767. CENTRAL ALABAMA CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Alabama and in that part of Florida west of the Apalachicola River.

¶ 1768. CENTRAL WEST CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa, and in that part of Illinois lying west of the following line: beginning at the city of Cairo, and running north along the Illinois Central Railroad to the city of Mendota, and including all the towns on said line of railroad; thence north to the Wisconsin state line, and thence west along said line to the Mississippi River; and all the Negro work in North and South Dakota and Montana.⁵

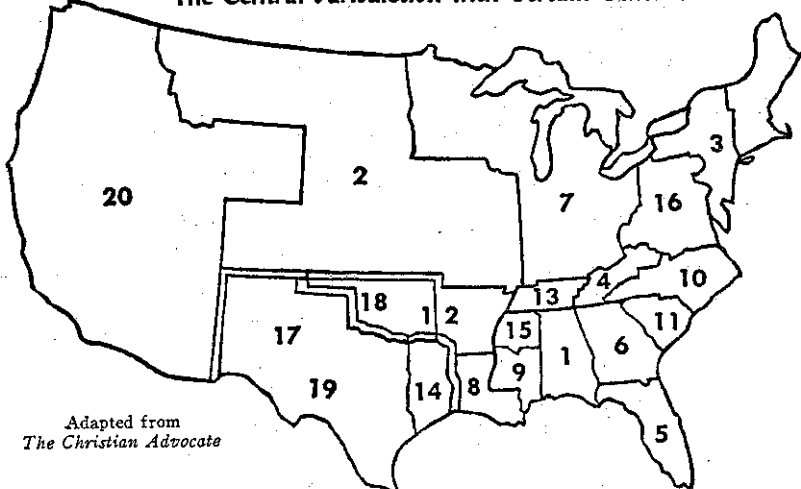
¶ 1769. DELAWARE CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Delaware, New Jersey, and New York State except that in the city of Buffalo and that already included in the New York Conference in the boroughs of

⁵ The General Conference of 1952 authorized the Iowa-Des Moines and North Iowa Conferences of the North Central Jurisdiction and the Nebraska Conference of the South Central Jurisdiction, on full compliance with all provisions of the Discipline relating thereto (see ¶ 532), to merge into their respective conferences any churches of the Central West Conference within their geographic bounds. For 1956 enabling acts see ¶ 2009 §§ 2-3.

494



495



- 1 Central Alabama
- 2 Central West
- 3 Delaware
- 4 East Tennessee
- 5 Florida
- 6 Georgia
- 7 Lexington
- 8 Louisiana
- 9 Mississippi
- 10 North Carolina
- 11 South Carolina
- 12 Southwest
- 13 Tennessee
- 14 Texas
- 15 Upper Mississippi
- 16 Washington
- 17 West Texas

Latin American Work
19 Rio Grande

Japanese Work
20 Pacific Japanese
(All Western Jurisdiction)

the Bronx and Manhattan in the city of New York and such new work within the boundaries of the New York and New York East Conferences as shall be organized by those conferences after July 1, 1948; it shall also include the Negro work in the Eastern Shore of Virginia and all Maryland and Pennsylvania not included in the Washington Conference.

¶ 1770. EAST TENNESSEE CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in that part of Tennessee which is not in the Tennessee Conference of this jurisdiction, in that part of Virginia west of and including the counties of Carroll, Floyd, Montgomery, and Giles; and in the counties of Mercer, Wyoming, McDowell, Raleigh, Logan, and Mingo in West Virginia; and the counties of Whitley, Knox, Bell, and Harlan in Kentucky.

¶ 1771. FLORIDA CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Florida except that part lying west of the Apalachicola River.

¶ 1772. GEORGIA CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Georgia.

¶ 1773. LEXINGTON CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, except so much of Illinois as is included in the Central West Conference, and except Whitley, Knox, Bell, and Harlan Counties in Kentucky.⁶

¶ 1774. LOUISIANA CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Louisiana.

¶ 1775. MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE shall include all the Negro work in Mississippi south of a line beginning at the northeast corner of Kemper County, and running along the northern border of said county, and of the counties of Neshoba, Leake, Madison, Yazoo, Sharkey, and Issaquena to the Mississippi River, and the part of Humphreys County formerly embraced in Yazoo County.

¶ 1776. NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in North Carolina and in that part of Virginia lying south of a line beginning at Cape Henry and

⁶ The General Conference of 1952 authorized the Detroit Conference of the North Central Jurisdiction, on full compliance with all provisions of the Discipline relating thereto (see ¶ 532), to merge into its conference any church of the Lexington Conference within its geographic bounds.

running to Hampton Roads; thence with Hampton Roads to the James River; thence with the southern bank of the James River to Chesterfield County; thence with the northern boundary of Prince George, Dinwiddie, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and Halifax Counties to the northeast corner of Pittsylvania; thence in a southerly direction to the northeast corner of Henry; thence with the county lines of Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Bedford to the corner of Bedford and Roanoke; thence with the Blue Ridge Mountains to the North Carolina state line.

¶ 1777. SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in South Carolina.

¶ 1778. SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

¶ 1779. TENNESSEE CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in that portion of Tennessee west of and including Franklin, Coffee, Warren, White, Putnam, Overton, and Pickett Counties.

¶ 1780. TEXAS CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in that part of Texas lying east of a line beginning at the Gulf of Mexico on the east boundary of Matagorda County, and running along said line and the east line of Wharton and Colorado Counties to the north point of Colorado County; thence north until it strikes the Southern Pacific Railroad at Calvert; thence along that railroad to the northern boundary of Texas, excluding Calvert and all the towns on the said railroad.

¶ 1781. UPPER MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in Mississippi not included in the Mississippi Conference.

¶ 1782. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE shall include the Negro work in western Maryland, the District of Columbia, the state of West Virginia, except Raleigh, Mercer, Wyoming, McDowell, Logan, and Mingo Counties; so much of Pennsylvania as lies west of the Susquehanna River, including the towns on said river; and so much of Virginia as is not included in the East Tennessee, Delaware, and North Carolina Conferences. (See ¶ 2009 § 1.)

¶ 1783. WEST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall embrace the Negro work in that part of Texas which is not included in

the Texas Conference of this jurisdiction, and shall include any Negro mission work that may be established in New Mexico.

SEC. IV. Conferences of the North Central Jurisdiction

¶ 1792. This jurisdiction comprises the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

¶ 1793. DETROIT CONFERENCE shall include that part of Michigan in the Lower Peninsula east of the principal meridian (except that the city of Albion shall be common territory with the Michigan Conference for the purpose of holding Annual Conference sessions) as far north as the southern boundary of Roscommon County; thence west to the southwest corner of said county; thence north to the southern boundary of Charlevoix County; thence east to the southeast corner of Charlevoix County; thence north to the Straits of Mackinac. It shall also include the Upper Peninsula.⁷

¶ 1794. ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall embrace that part of Illinois north of the Southern Illinois Conference and south of the following lines, namely: beginning on the Mississippi River at Albany, thence southeasterly to the northwest corner of Bureau County; thence south to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway crossing of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway; thence along said railway to Bureau Junction; thence to the Illinois River; thence up the said river to the mouth of the Kankakee River; thence up the Kankakee River to a point directly west of the north line of Kankakee County; thence east to the Indiana line; leaving Albany, Leon, and Ottawa in the Rock River Conference, and Bureau Junction in the Illinois Conference.

¶ 1795. INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north and the east by a line beginning where the National Road intersects the west line of Indiana; thence along said road to Terre Haute; thence along the Vandalia Railroad to Maywood Road, West Indianapolis;

thence north on Maywood Road and Tibbs Avenue to West Tenth Street and thence east to LaFayette and Indianapolis Railroad; thence north on said railroad to the Michigan Road; thence on said road to the north line of Marion County; thence east on said county line to the northeast corner of said county; thence south on the east line of said county to the National Road; thence east on said road to the state line; on the east by the state of Ohio including Elizabeth, Hamilton County, Ohio; on the south by the Ohio River; and on the west by Illinois.

¶ 1796. IOWA-DES MOINES CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the east by the Mississippi River beginning at the southeast corner of Iowa and extending north to but not including the city of Davenport; thence west along the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad to Iowa City, including all intermediate towns but not including Iowa City; thence along the Iowa River to the northeast corner of Iowa County; thence due west to the southwest corner of Marshall County; thence north to the northeast corner of Story County; thence west to the northeast corner of Crawford County; thence south to the north line of township eighty-three; thence west to the east line of Monona County; thence south and west on the Monona County line to the Missouri River; thence along the Missouri River south to the Missouri state line; thence east along the Missouri state line to the Des Moines River; thence southeast along the Des Moines River to the Mississippi River at the extreme southeastern corner of Iowa.⁸

¶ 1797. MICHIGAN CONFERENCE shall include that part of Michigan in the Lower Peninsula west of the principal meridian as far north as the southern boundary of Roscommon County; thence west to the southwest corner of said county; thence north to the southern boundary of Charlevoix County; thence east to the southeast corner of said county; thence north to the Straits of Mackinac, including Mackinaw City.

⁷ See footnote to ¶ 1773.

⁸ See footnote to ¶ 1768.

¶ 1798. MINNESOTA CONFERENCE shall include all Minnesota.

¶ 1799. NORTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE shall include North Dakota.

¶ 1800. NORTH INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by Michigan; on the east by Ohio, including Union City; on the south by the National Road from the state line west to Marion County, thence north to the northeast corner of said county, thence west to the Michigan Road; on the west by said Michigan Road to South Bend, excluding Lowell Heights and River Park Churches, South Bend; and thence by the St. Joseph River to the Michigan state line; including Logansport and all the towns on the National Road east of Indianapolis.

¶ 1801. NORTH IOWA CONFERENCE shall include all of Iowa north of the Iowa-Des Moines Conference and also East Dubuque in Illinois.^o

¶ 1802. NORTH-EAST OHIO CONFERENCE shall be bounded as follows: beginning at the north point of the line separating Ohio from Pennsylvania; thence south along said line to the Ohio River, including Orangeville Church; thence down said river to the Muskingum River; thence up the Muskingum River to Dresden, excluding Marietta, Zanesville, and Dresden; thence westerly to the main road passing through Delaware and Marion, including Utica, Homer, and Galena Circuits, and excluding Stratford; thence on the west by the main road passing through Delaware and Marion to Upper Sandusky, and by the Sandusky River to its mouth; thence due north to the state line, including the towns of Tiffin, Port Clinton, and Lakeside, and excluding so much of the town of Delaware as lies west of Sandusky Street, yet including Asbury Church in the city of Delaware; also excluding the towns of Marion, Fremont, and Upper Sandusky; thence east on the northern line of Ohio to the place of beginning—except that Lakeside Assembly Grounds at Lakeside and the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University

^o See footnote to ¶ 1768.

at Delaware shall be common territory for the purpose of holding Annual Conference sessions.

¶ 1803. NORTHWEST INDIANA CONFERENCE shall be bounded on the north by Lake Michigan and the state line; on the east by the St. Joseph River and the Michigan Road, including Lowell Heights and River Park Churches, South Bend, Indiana; on the south by the Indiana Conference, and on the west by Illinois; including all the towns on the Michigan Road except Logansport, and all the towns on the southern boundary, excluding Washington Street Church in Indianapolis.

¶ 1804. OHIO CONFERENCE shall be bounded as follows: beginning at the northwest corner of Ohio; thence east on the north line of that state to a point due north of the mouth of the Sandusky River; thence south to and up said river to Upper Sandusky, excluding Port Clinton and Tiffin, and including Fremont and Upper Sandusky; thence in a southerly direction along the main road from Upper Sandusky through Marion to Delaware, Ohio, including the Wyandotte Church and Marion, Waldo, and all of Delaware west of Sandusky Street except Asbury Church; thence in an easterly direction to Dresden, Ohio, excluding the Galena, Sunbury, Homer, and Utica Circuits; thence down the Muskingum River to the Ohio River, including Dresden, Zanesville, and Marietta, Ohio; thence down the Ohio River to the west line of Ohio; thence north along said line to the place of beginning—except that Lakeside Assembly Grounds at Lakeside and the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware shall be common territory for the purpose of holding Annual Conference sessions.

¶ 1805. ROCK RIVER CONFERENCE shall include that part of Illinois north of the Illinois Conference, except East Dubuque.

¶ 1806. SOUTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE shall include South Dakota.

¶ 1807. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE shall include all that part of Illinois south of the following line, namely: beginning at a point on the Mississippi River at the northwest corner of Calhoun County; thence east along the north line of said county to the Illinois River;

thence down the Illinois River to Columbiana; thence east to the northeast corner of Jersey County, leaving Carrollton and Rockbridge in the Illinois Conference; thence in a southeasterly direction, leaving Chesterfield in the Illinois Conference, and Litchfield in the Southern Illinois Conference; thence to Hillsboro, leaving Hillsboro in the Illinois Conference; thence to the northwest corner of Fayette County; thence along the north line of Fayette County and Effingham County to the west line of Cumberland County, leaving Herrick and Holiday in the Southern Illinois Conference; thence south to the southwest corner of Cumberland County; thence east along the south line of Cumberland and Clark Counties to the Wabash River.

¶ 1808. WEST WISCONSIN CONFERENCE shall include that part of Wisconsin not embraced in the Wisconsin Conference.

¶ 1809. WISCONSIN CONFERENCE shall include all that part of Wisconsin lying east and north of a line beginning at the southeast corner of Green County on the south line of the state; thence north on the range line between ranges nine and ten east, to the north line of township twenty; thence west on the said line to the east of range three; thence north on said line to the Michigan state line, excluding Avon Church, McFarland, Goodman Church, Brooklyn, the town of Pine Grove in Portage County, and Montello, and including Plainfield.

SEC. V. Conferences of the South Central Jurisdiction

¶ 1815. This jurisdiction comprises the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.

¶ 1816. CENTRAL KANSAS CONFERENCE shall comprise all that part of Kansas not included in the Kansas Conference. (See ¶ 2009 § 2.)

¶ 1817. CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Texas within the following boundaries: beginning on the Trinity River at the southeast corner of Navarro County, and running thence on the south side of the county to the northeast corner of Limestone County (in-

cluding those parts of Wortham and Cotton Gin Circuits that are situated in Freestone County) to a point opposite the line between Thornton and Kosse Circuits; thence west to the southwest corner of Thornton Circuit; thence in a direct line to the southeast corner of McLennan County; thence with the south line of that county (including the Mooresville and Perry Churches in Falls County) to Bell County; thence with the east line of Bell County to Milam County; thence with the south line of Bell County to Williamson County; thence with the east line of Williamson County, exclusive of Manda, to Lee County; thence on the south line of Williamson County to the Texas and New Orleans Railroad; thence with the railroad, not including Liberty Hill and Leander Charge, to Burnet County; thence with the east line of Burnet and Lampasas Counties to Hamilton County; thence west on the south line of Hamilton County to Mills County; thence north and west with the lines of Mills County to the Colorado River, including Bethany Church in Indian Creek Circuit; thence with the Colorado River to the east line of Coke County; thence with the east line of Coke County to the southeast corner of Nolan County; thence east with the county lines to the southwest corner of Eastland County and including Putnam, Cross Plains Station, and Dressy Circuit in Callahan County; thence north with the west lines of Eastland, Stephens, and Young Counties to the northwest corner of Young County; thence with the west and south boundaries of the North Texas Conference and the west boundary of the Texas Conference of this jurisdiction to the beginning.

¶ 1818. KANSAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Kansas lying east of a line traversing the west boundary of Chautauqua, Elk, and Greenwood Counties, thence along the south and west boundary of Chase County to the south and west boundary of Morris County, thence north along the east boundary of Dickinson, Clay, and Washington Counties to the Nebraska state line.

¶ 1819. LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE shall comprise all Arkansas not included in the North Arkansas Conference.

¶ 1820. LOUISIANA CONFERENCE shall include all Louisiana.

¶ 1821. MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall comprise all Missouri north of the Missouri River except the four counties of Lincoln, Montgomery, St. Charles, and Warren, and North Kansas City and the Methodist congregation there.

¶ 1822. NEBRASKA CONFERENCE shall include all Nebraska.¹⁰

¶ 1823. NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE shall include all New Mexico; that part of Texas beginning at the southeast corner of New Mexico, and running east along the north line of Winkler and Ector Counties to the northwest corner of Midland County; thence south with the west line of Midland and Upton Counties to the Pecos River; thence along the river to its mouth; thence northwest along the Rio Grande to the south line of New Mexico; and the town of Farwell, Texas.

¶ 1824. NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Arkansas lying north of the following line: beginning at the mouth of the White River, running up the river to the mouth of Des Arc Bayou; thence up the bayou to the mouth of Cypress Bayou; thence up Cypress Bayou to the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad; thence down that railroad to the Arkansas River, including all towns along that railroad; thence up the Arkansas River to the south line of Perry County; thence along the south lines of Perry, Yell, and Scott Counties to the Oklahoma state line.

¶ 1825. NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Texas within the following boundaries: on the north the Red River, beginning at the northwest corner of Wichita County; thence east down the river to the northeast corner of Red River County; thence south along the east line of that county to its southeast corner; thence west along the south line of the county to the northeast corner of Franklin County, including the town of Talco in Titus County; thence south along the east

¹⁰ See footnote to ¶ 1768.

line of Franklin County to its southeast corner, but including the town of Winnsboro; thence west along the south lines of Franklin and Hopkins Counties to the northwest corner of Rains County; thence south to the southwest corner of that county; thence west on the south of Hunt County to the northeast corner of Kaufman County; thence south with the east line of that county to its southeast corner; thence along the south and west lines of that county to the southeast corner of Dallas County; thence along the south and west lines of that county to the northeast corner of Tarrant County; thence west on the south lines of Denton, Wise, and Jack Counties, excluding the Newark Church, to the southwest corner of Jack County; thence along the west line of that county to the northeast corner of Young County; thence west with the south line of Archer County to the southwest corner of the county; thence north with the west lines of Archer and Wichita Counties to the beginning.

¶ 1826. NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Texas within the following boundaries: beginning on the Red River at the northeast corner of Wilbarger County, south with the east line of Wilbarger and Baylor Counties to the northwest corner of Young County; thence south and west with the boundaries of the Central Texas Conference to the Colorado River; thence west with the south line of Mitchell and Howard Counties to the northeast corner of Glasscock County; thence south to the southeast corner of Glasscock County; thence west with the south lines of Glasscock and Midland Counties to the southwest corner of Midland County; thence north to the line of Andrews County; thence west to the corner of New Mexico; thence north along the state line to the northwest corner of the state; thence east with the state line to the northeast corner of Lipscomb County; thence south with the state line to the south fork of the Red River; thence down the Red River to the beginning.

¶ 1827. OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE shall include all of Oklahoma exclusive of the Indian Mission.

¶ 1828. RIO GRANDE CONFERENCE shall include all the Spanish-language work in Texas and New Mexico.¹¹

¶ 1829. ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE shall comprise Lincoln, Montgomery, St. Charles, and Warren Counties in Missouri; and all that state south of the Missouri River and east of a line beginning at the north point of Moniteau County and running west of south to the southeast corner of Cooper County; thence directly south to the northwest corner of Miller County; and thence southward following the west lines of Miller, Pulaski, Texas, and Howell Counties to the Missouri-Arkansas line. On the west line to Pulaski County the boundary line shall deviate eastward to exclude the town of Richland and the Methodist congregation there.

¶ 1830. SOUTHWEST MISSOURI CONFERENCE shall comprise all Missouri south of the Missouri River and not included in the St. Louis Conference. Along the boundary at Kansas City the line shall deviate northward to include North Kansas City and the Methodist congregation at that place.

¶ 1831. SOUTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Texas west and south of the Texas, Central Texas, and Northwest Texas Conferences of this jurisdiction, including Industry and Manda, except the area west of the Pecos River and that embraced in the New Mexico Conference east of the Pecos River.

¶ 1832. TEXAS CONFERENCE shall comprise that part of Texas within the following boundaries; beginning at the northeast corner of Red River County, thence east with the Red River to the northeast corner of Texas; thence south with the state line to the Gulf of Mexico; thence on the south along the Gulf of Mexico to Matagorda Bay; thence to the mouth of the Colorado River; thence north up the river to the north line of Wharton County; thence east to the southeast corner of Colorado County; thence north with the west line of Austin (exclusive of Industry), Washington, and Lee Counties to Williamson County;

¹¹ The South Central Jurisdictional Conference of 1956 granted permission to the Indian Mission and the Rio Grande Conference to change their boundaries when such changes are agreed on by the bishops of the conferences involved and approved by the Jurisdictional Board of Missions.

thence on the north along the line of the Central Texas Conference, exclusive of the town of Perry, to the Trinity River at the northeast corner of Freestone County; thence with the Trinity River to the southwest corner of Kaufman County; thence with the boundary line of the North Texas Conference to the beginning.

¶ 1833. INDIAN MISSION shall include the distinctively Indian pastoral charges and missions in Oklahoma.¹²

SEC. VI. Conferences of the Western Jurisdiction

¶ 1841. This jurisdiction comprises the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado; and the territories of Alaska and Hawaii.

¶ 1842. CALIFORNIA-NEVADA CONFERENCE shall include all that portion of California and all that portion of Nevada lying north of the northern boundary of the Southern California-Arizona Conference, with the exception of White Pine County, Nevada, and Randsburg and Inyokern in Kern County, California.

¶ 1843. IDAHO CONFERENCE shall include all Idaho not embraced in the Pacific Northwest Conference, together with the following territory in the state of Oregon, namely: the counties of Baker, Malheur, Harney, Wallowa, Union, and Grant, except for that portion where the town of John Day is located.

¶ 1844. MONTANA CONFERENCE shall include all Montana.

¶ 1845. OREGON CONFERENCE shall include all Oregon not included in the Idaho Conference.

¶ 1846. PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE shall include the state of Washington and that part of Idaho lying north of the southern boundary of Idaho County.

¶ 1847. ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE shall include all Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and White Pine County, Nevada. (See ¶ 2008 § 1 and ¶ 2009 § 3.)

¶ 1848. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA CONFERENCE shall include that portion of California lying south of the line beginning at the northwest corner of San Luis Obispo

¹² See footnote to ¶ 1828.

County, running east along the north boundary of San Louis Obispo County to the northwest corner of Kern County; thence south along the west boundary of Kern County to the south boundary of said county; thence east along the south boundary of Kern County to the west boundary of San Bernardino County; thence north along the west boundaries of San Bernardino and Inyo Counties to the south boundary of Mono County, including Randsburg and Inyokern; thence east to the California-Nevada state line; also that portion of Nevada lying south of a line beginning at a point where the thirty-seventh parallel of north latitude intersects the California-Nevada state line; thence east along said parallel to the west line of Lincoln County, Nevada; thence north and east along the line of Lincoln County to the Nevada-Utah state line; also the state of Arizona.

¶ 1849. ALASKA MISSION shall include the territory of Alaska.

¶ 1850. HAWAII MISSION shall include all the work in the territory of Hawaii.

¶ 1851. PACIFIC JAPANESE PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work among the Japanese people in the Western Jurisdiction excepting that in the Hawaii Mission.¹⁸

CHAPTER III

ANNUAL CONFERENCES, PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCES, AND MISSIONS OVERSEAS

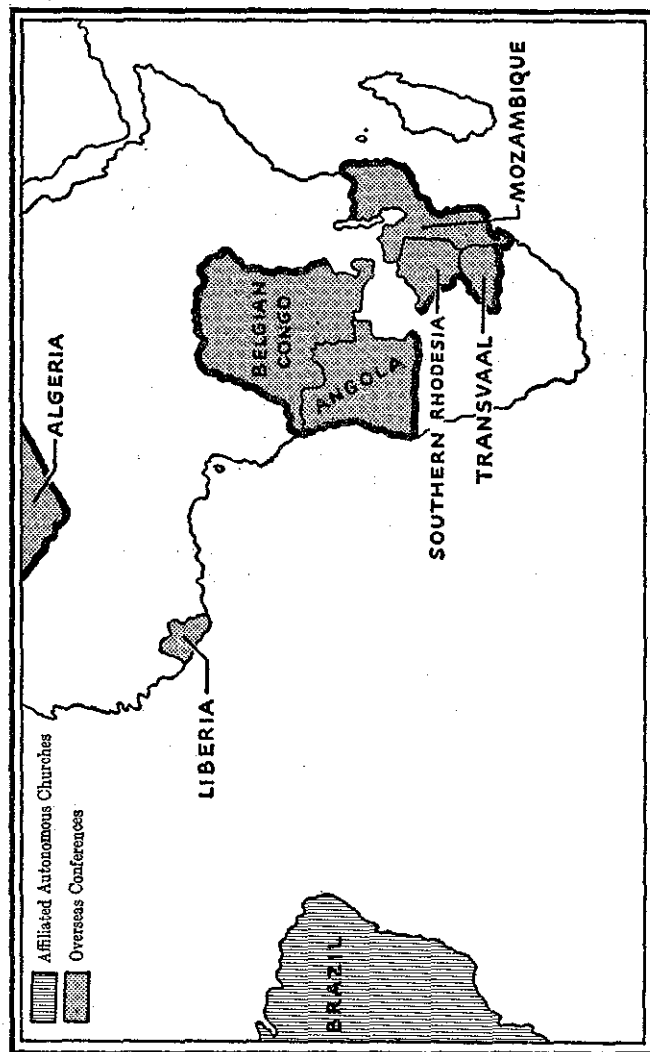
SECTION I.

Africa

¶ 1860. Annual Conferences:

1. ANGOLA CONFERENCE shall include the work in Angola.
2. CENTRAL CONGO CONFERENCE shall include the work in the Sankuru-Lomani region of the Belgian Congo.

¹⁸ An enabling act was adopted by the General Conference of 1948 making it possible, if and when it seems desirable, to integrate the Pacific Japanese Provisional Annual Conference with the Annual Conferences through which its local churches are geographically distributed.



3. LIBERIA CONFERENCE shall include the Republic of Liberia.

4. RHODESIA CONFERENCE shall include the work in Southern Rhodesia.

5. SOUTHEAST AFRICA CONFERENCE shall include the work in Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique), and in the Transvaal among people coming from Portuguese territories.

6. SOUTHERN CONGO CONFERENCE shall include the work in the Katanga region of the Belgian Congo.

SEC. II.

Eastern Asia

¶ 1861. Annual Conferences:

1. EAST CHINA CONFERENCE (formerly China Conference) shall include all the Methodist work in the territory of the Wu dialects and Manchuria.

2. FOOCHEW CONFERENCE shall include Foochow Municipality, Futsing, Kutien, Linseng, Mintsing, and Pintang Counties, except such portions as are included in the Hinghwa and Yenping Conferences.

3. HINGHWA CONFERENCE shall include the counties of Putien and Sienyu and the adjoining territory where the Hinghwa dialect is spoken.

4. KIANGSI CONFERENCE shall include the province of Kiangsi and that portion of Anhwei Province west of a line drawn north and south through the west wall of the city of Anking, the capital of the province, and also Hwangmei County in Hupeh Province.

5. MID-CHINA CONFERENCE (formerly Central China Conference) shall include Central China, with its central station at the city of Nanking, on the Yangtze River, excluding the Kiangsi Annual Conference.

6. NORTH CHINA CONFERENCE shall include the northern part of the province of Hopel, and the southern part of the province of Chahar.

7. SHANTUNG CONFERENCE shall include the counties of Tsinan, Taian, Szushui, Yenchow, Ningyang, Wensang, Chufu, Tsouhsien, Feicheng, Laiwu, Tungping, Tsining, and Tunge, located in the central part of Shantung Province.

8. WEST CHINA CONFERENCE shall include the following counties: Chengtu, Whayang, Gintang, Jienyang, Tsiyang, Tschung, Melkang, Lochi, Anyoh, Chungkiang, Bahsien, Kiangpeh, Pishan, Yungchwan, Jungchang, Hochwan, Wusheng, Tunknan, and Suining.

9. YENPING CONFERENCE shall include the following counties in Fukien: Nanping, Sha, Yungan, Mingchi, Shunchang, Sanyuan, Yuki, Kaotan of Chiango County, and Hsia-Shuan-keng of Kutien County.

¶ 1862. Provisional Annual Conferences and Missions:

1. KALGAN PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the city of Kalgan and contiguous territory of the Hopei Province and Inner Mongolia.

2. HONG KONG MISSION shall include all the work in Hong Kong. (See ¶ 2007 § 3.)

3. TAIWAN MISSION shall include all the work in Taiwan. (See ¶ 2007 § 3.)

SEC. III.

Europe

¶ 1863. Annual Conferences:

1. BELGIUM CONFERENCE shall include all the work in Belgium and Dunkirk in France.

2. CENTRAL GERMANY CONFERENCE shall include Saxony and Thuringia, including the towns of Halle and Dessau.

3. CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONFERENCE shall include all the work in Czechoslovakia.

4. DENMARK CONFERENCE shall include the Kingdom of Denmark.

5. NORTHEAST GERMANY CONFERENCE shall be bounded in the west by the boundary of the Northwest Germany Conference; in the south by the boundary of the Central Germany Conference; in the east by the boundary of Germany as of 1945. (See ¶ 2008 § 3.)

6. NORTHWEST GERMANY CONFERENCE shall be bounded in the east by the eleventh degree of longitude; in the south by the fifty-second degree of latitude to the boundary of the Southwest Germany Conference; in the west by the boundary of Germany as of 1945.

7. NORWAY CONFERENCE shall include the Kingdom of Norway.

8. SOUTH GERMANY CONFERENCE shall include the work

within the geographical boundaries of Bavaria, except the Palatinate and Wuerttemberg.

9. SOUTHWEST GERMANY CONFERENCE shall be bounded in the north by a line south of Lippe from Wesel to Hamm; in the east by a line from Hamm to Marburg, Geinhausen, Mosbach, Pforzheim to Lahr; in the west by the boundary of Germany as of 1945.

10. SWEDEN CONFERENCE shall include the Kingdom of Sweden.

11. SWITZERLAND CONFERENCE shall include all the work in the Republic of Switzerland, and the German-speaking churches of France.

¶ 1864. *Provisional Annual Conferences and Missions:*

1. BALTIC AND SLAVIC PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

2. BULGARIA PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in Bulgaria.

3. FINLAND PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include Finland, except as in § 4.

4. FINLAND-SWEDISH PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the Swedish-speaking work in Finland.

5. HUNGARY PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in Hungary.

6. NORTH AFRICA PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in Algeria, Tunisia, and adjacent territory.

7. POLISH PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include all the work in Poland. (See ¶ 2007 § 1.)

8. AUSTRIA MISSION shall include the work in Austria. (See ¶ 2007 § 2.)

9. RUSSIA MISSION shall include the work in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

10. SPAIN MISSION shall include the work in Spain.

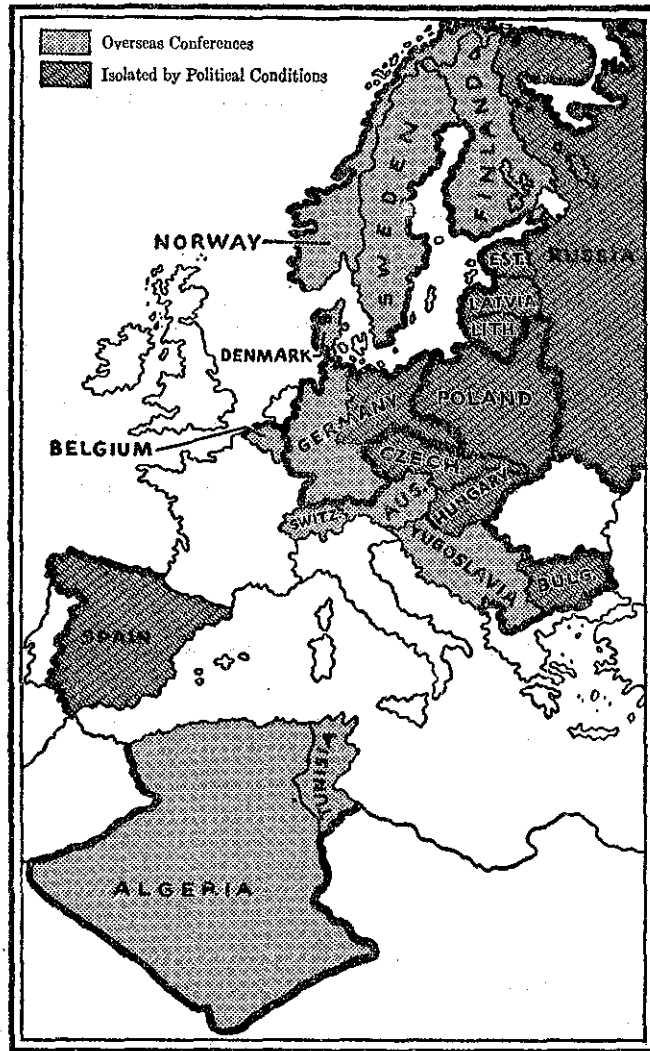
11. YUGOSLAVIA MISSION shall include the work in Yugoslavia.

SEC. IV.

Latin America

¶ 1865. *Annual Conferences:*

1. ARGENTINA CONFERENCE shall include the Republic of Argentina. (See ¶ 2007 § 2.)





2. CHILE CONFERENCE shall include the Republic of Chile.

¶ 1866. *Provisional Annual Conferences:*

1. BOLIVIA PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the Republic of Bolivia.

2. CENTRAL AMERICA PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include Costa Rica and Panama.

3. PERU PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the Republic of Peru.

4. URUGUAY PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in the Republic of Uruguay.

SEC. V.

Philippines

¶ 1867. *Annual Conference:*

1. NORTHERN PHILIPPINES CONFERENCE shall include the work in the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Batanes; and the subprovinces of Apayao, Kalinga, and Ifugao of Mountain Province.

2. NORTHWEST PHILIPPINES CONFERENCE shall include the work in the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, and Abra; northern Nueva Ecija and northern Tarlac provinces; the subprovinces of Benguet and Bontoc of Mountain Province; the city of Baguio.

3. PHILIPPINES CONFERENCE shall include the work in southern Nueva Ecija and southern Tarlac provinces; the provinces of Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Rizal, and Tayabas; the city of Manila and Quezon City; and all provinces south of Manila, including Mindoro, the Bicol provinces, Catanduanes, Visayas, and Palawan.

¶ 1868. *Provisional Annual Conference:* MINDANAO PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in the island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. (See ¶ 2007 § 1.)

SEC. VI.

Southeastern Asia

¶ 1869. *Annual Conferences:*

1. BURMA CONFERENCE shall include the work in the whole of Burma and the Andaman Islands.

2. MALAYA CONFERENCE shall include the work in the Colony of Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, and such

adjacent islands or portions thereof as are under British or Indonesian governments or protection.

3. MALAYSIA CHINESE CONFERENCE shall include any vernacular Chinese work within Malaya.

¶ 1870. *Provisional Annual Conferences and Missions:*

1. SARAWAK PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in Sarawak on the island of Borneo. (See ¶ 2007 § 1.)

2. SUMATRA PROVISIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in the islands of Sumatra, Banka, and Billiton. (See ¶ 2007 § 1.)

SEC. VII.

Southern Asia

[The political units named in this section are those existing at the time of the 1956 General Conference.—EDITOR.]

¶ 1871. *Annual Conferences:*

1. BENGAL CONFERENCE shall include the work in West Bengal, and as much of Bihar as does not lie within the bounds of the Lucknow Conference.

2. BOMBAY CONFERENCE shall include the work in all that part of India where Marathi is the prevailing language, and Bombay City Territory.

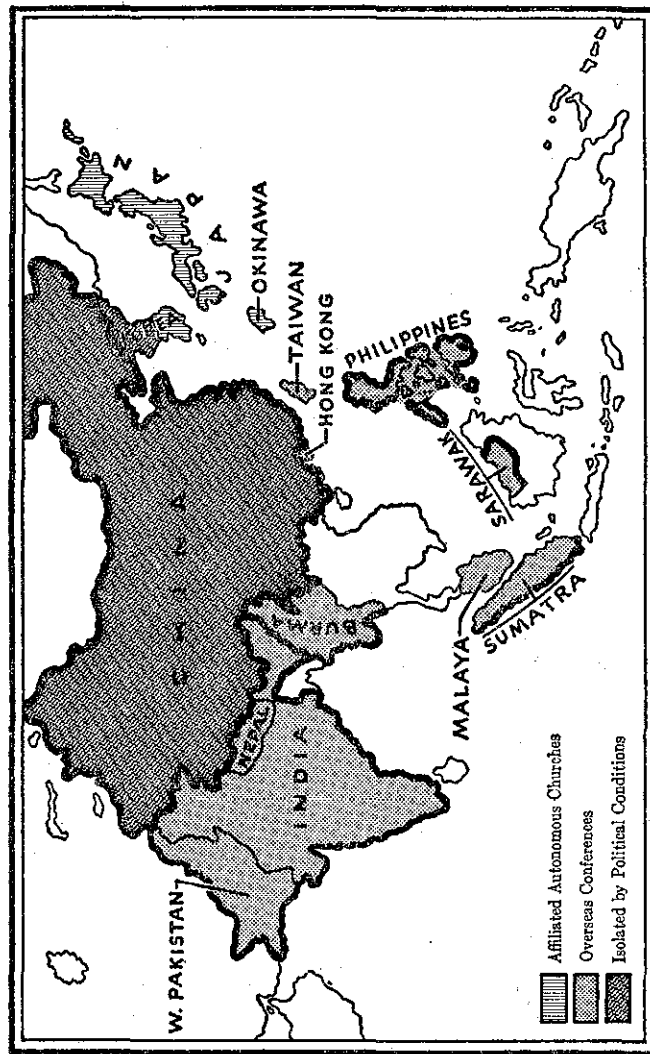
3. DELHI CONFERENCE shall include the work in the following states and territories: Ajmer, Delhi, Himachal, Pepsu, Punjab (I), and those parts of Rajasthan not included in the Gujarat Conference.

4. GUJARAT CONFERENCE shall include the work in all of Gujarat and Saurashtra, and that part of Rajasthan in which Gujarati is the prevailing language.

5. HYDERABAD CONFERENCE shall include the work in that part of Hyderabad where Telugu is the prevailing language, and also the Kanarese work in the Bidar and Daulatabad Districts.

6. INDUS RIVER CONFERENCE shall include the work in all of Western Pakistan. (See ¶ 2007 § 2.)

7. LUCKNOW CONFERENCE shall include the work in that part of Uttar Pradesh which north of the Ganges River includes and lies east of the civil districts of Bahraich, Gonda, Barabanki, Lucknow, and Unnao and south of the Ganges River lies east of a straight line from Far-



rukhabad through Etawah to the southern border; and in the Tirhut and Patna Divisions of Bihar.

8. **MADHYA PRADESH CONFERENCE** shall include the work in all of Madhya Pradesh and in Madhya Bharat, except the Gwalior District.

9. **NORTH INDIA CONFERENCE** shall include the work in that part of Uttar Pradesh between the Ganges and Gogra rivers which is not included in the Lucknow Conference.

10. **SOUTH INDIA CONFERENCE** shall include the work in those parts where Kanarese is the prevailing language, except that in the Hyderabad Conference.

11. A new Annual Conference, to be named later,¹⁴ shall include the work in the part of Uttar Pradesh west of the Ganges River not included in the Lucknow Conference, and in the Gwalior District of Madhya Bharat.

¶ **1872. Mission:** The work of The Methodist Church with the United Christian Mission in Nepal.

CHAPTER IV

CENTRAL CONFERENCES

¶ **1874. Africa Central Conference:** Angola, Central Congo, Rhodesia, Southeast Africa, and Southern Congo Annual Conferences.

¶ **1875. Central and Southern Europe Central Conference:** Belgium, Czechoslovakia, and Switzerland Annual Conferences; Bulgaria, Hungary, North Africa, and Polish Provisional Annual Conferences; and Austria, Spain, and Yugoslavia Missions.

¶ **1876. China Central Conference:** East China, Foo-chow, Hinghwa, Kiangsi, Mid-China, North China, Shantung, West China, and Yenping Annual Conferences; Kalgan Provisional Annual Conference; and Hong Kong and Taiwan Missions.¹⁵

¹⁴ This name, if selected before the final section of the Discipline goes to press, may appear in ¶ 2103 or on the last page of the Index.

¹⁵ The General Conference of 1956 directed that for the 1956-60 quadrennium the Hong Kong and Taiwan Missions be administered outside the China Central Conference. See ¶ 2005 § 5.

¶ **1877. Germany Central Conference:** Central Germany, Northeast Germany, Northwest Germany, South Germany, and Southwest Germany Annual Conferences.

¶ **1878. Latin America Central Conference:** Argentina and Chile Annual Conferences; and Bolivia, Central America, Peru, and Uruguay Provisional Annual Conferences.

¶ **1879. Northern Europe Central Conference:** Denmark, Norway, and Sweden Annual Conferences; Baltic and Slavic, Finland, and Finland-Swedish Provisional Annual Conferences; and Russia Mission.

¶ **1880. Philippines Central Conference:** Northern Philippines, Northwest Philippines, and Philippines Annual Conferences; and Mindanao Provisional Annual Conference.

¶ **1881. Southeastern Asia Central Conference:** Burma, Malaya, and Malaysia Chinese Annual Conferences; and Sarawak and Sumatra Provisional Annual Conferences.

¶ **1882. Southern Asia Central Conference:** Bengal, Bombay, Delhi, Gujarat, Hyderabad, Indus River, Lucknow, Madhya Pradesh, North India, and South India Annual Conferences, and a new Annual Conference not yet named; and the work of The Methodist Church with the United Christian Mission in Nepal.

CHAPTER V

OTHER WORK OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

¶ **1884. Work Not Included in Central or Provisional Central Conferences:** Liberia Annual Conference, and relationships with Methodist interests in Korea, Japan, and the Ryukyu Islands (Okinawa).¹⁶

¶ **1885. Affiliated Autonomous Churches:** Methodist Church of Mexico, Methodist Church of Brazil, Methodist Church in Korea, Church of Christ in Japan, and Church of Christ in Okinawa.

¹⁶ See footnote to ¶ 1876.

PART X

WORSHIP AND RITUAL

CHAPTER I

ORDERS OF WORSHIP

¶ 1901. In recognition of the various needs of our several congregations, four orders of worship have been provided which may be used according to desire. But while liberty is given in the use of these orders of worship, it is urged that all ministers and congregations make use of some one of these orders.

Let each service proceed without announcement, as far as possible.

Choral responses may be used as desired. See numbers 589-624 in *The Methodist Hymnal*.

For calls to worship, invocations and confessions, words of assurance, affirmations of faith, and prayers, see *The Book of Worship for Church and Home*.

Where there is a junior service or sermon, it should immediately precede or follow the offertory.

¶ 1902. In commending the Sunday Service to "our societies in America," Mr. Wesley wrote: "I believe there is no Liturgy in the World, either in ancient or modern language, which breathes more of a solid, scriptural, rational piety than the Common Prayer of the Church of England. And though the main of it was compiled considerably more than two hundred years ago, yet is the language of it not only pure, but strong and elegant in the highest degree."

¶ 1903. ORDER OF WORSHIP I

Let the service of worship begin at the time appointed. Let the people kneel or bow in silent prayer upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Which may be said or sung.*

HYMN *If a processional, the hymn shall precede the call to worship, and the people shall then rise at the second stanza and join in singing.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *To be said by all, the people seated and bowed, or kneeling. The following, or other prayer of confession, may be said:*

Our heavenly Father, who by thy love hast made us, and through thy love hast kept us, and in thy love wouldest make us perfect; we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul and mind and strength, and that we have not loved one another as Christ hath loved us. Thy life is within our souls, but our selfishness hath hindered thee. We have resisted thy Spirit. We have neglected thine inspirations. Forgive what we have been; help us to amend what we are; and in thy Spirit direct what we shall be; that thou mayest come into the full glory of thy creation, in us and in all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *The minister.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Which may be said or sung.*

ANTHEM or CHANT *Which may be the Venite or the Te Deum.*

THE RESPONSIVE READING *The people to stand and remain standing until after the Affirmation of Faith.*

GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *To be said by the minister and people.*

THE LESSON FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES *The Old and New Testaments.*

PASTORAL PRAYER *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

OFFERTORY *The dedication of offerings, with prayer or offertory sentences.*

HYMN *The people standing.*

THE SERMON

PRAYER *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN or DOXOLOGY *The people standing. The closing hymn may be a recessional.*

BENEDICTION *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

¶ 1904. ORDER OF WORSHIP II

Let the service of worship begin at the time appointed. Let the people kneel or bow in silent prayer upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

INVOCATION

HYMN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM

THE RESPONSIVE READING

GLORIA PATRI

THE LESSON FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

SILENT MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *The dedication of offerings, with prayer or offertory sentences.*

HYMN

THE SERMON

PRAYER

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¶ 1905. ORDER OF WORSHIP III

Let the service of worship begin at the time appointed. Let the people kneel or bow in silent prayer upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

CALL TO WORSHIP *Which may be said or sung.*

HYMN *If a processional, the hymn shall precede the call to worship, and the people shall then rise at the second stanza and join in singing.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *To be said by all, the people seated and bowed, or kneeling. The following, or other prayer of confession, may be said:*

Almighty God, from whom every good prayer cometh, and who pourest out, on all who desire it, the spirit of grace and supplication; deliver us, when we draw nigh to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts, and kindled affections, we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Which may be said or sung.*

ANTHEM

THE LESSON FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURES *If a responsive reading is used, it should be followed by the Gloria Patri, the people standing.*

PASTORAL PRAYER *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

HYMN *The people standing.*

THE SERMON

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN or DOXOLOGY *The people standing.*

SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION *The people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

POSTLUDE

¶ 1906. AN ORDER FOR MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER, ADAPTED FROM THE SUNDAY SERVICE OF JOHN WESLEY

Suggested for Occasional Use

Let the service of worship begin at the time appointed. Let the people kneel or bow in silent prayer upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES *One or more of them to be read by the minister, the people standing.*

The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

This is the day which the LORD hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

HYMN *If a processional, the hymn shall precede the Scripture Sentences, and the people shall then rise at the second stanza and join in singing.*

CALL TO CONFESSION *By the minister, the people standing.*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us to acknowledge and confess our sins before Almighty God our Heavenly Father with a humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart, to the end that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and a humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace. Let us pray.

GENERAL CONFESSION *To be said by all, the people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PARDON *The minister.*

O Lord, we beseech thee, absolve thy people from their offenses, that through thy bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of those sins which by our frailty we have committed. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The people shall answer here, and at the end of all other prayers, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *To be said by all.*

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.

People: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister: Praise ye the Lord.

People: The Lord's name be praised.

VENITE *To be said or sung by all, the people standing.*

PSALTER *To be said by all, the people standing.*

GLORIA PATRI *To be said or sung by all, the people standing.*

THE LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

TE DEUM *To be said or sung by all, the people standing.*

THE LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

JUBILATE DEO *To be said or sung by all, the people standing.*

DECLARATION OF FAITH *Here shall be said the Apostles' Creed.*

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR GRACE *To be said by all, the people seated and bowed, or kneeling.*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that which is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER *Then may the minister offer a prayer, ending with:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Then may be sung an anthem, and an offering may be received.*

THE SERMON *When the service is followed by a sermon or the Holy Communion, the minister shall make use of appropriate hymns and prayers. Otherwise the service may close with a hymn and the following benediction.*

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

When this service is to be used for Evening Prayer, the following changes shall be made:

The Magnificat shall be used in place of the Te Deum.

The Nunc Dimittis shall be used in place of the Jubilate Deo.

In place of the Collect for Grace shall be said the following Collects:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHAPTER II

THE RITUAL

We call upon all our ministers to make faithful use of the forms and orders here provided, without other deviation than is here indicated.

We urge all ministers to encourage and train the people to participate audibly in those portions of the service provided for this purpose, particularly in the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The portions to be used as responses are especially indicated by bold-faced type.

¶ 1908. AN ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER OR HOLY COMMUNION I

The following is a complete order of public worship and is intended to replace the regular order of morning worship when the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered. The responses may be sung if desired. See numbers 565-88 in *The Methodist Hymnal*.

The Lord's Table should have upon it a fair linen cloth.

Let the pure, unfermented juice of the grape be used.

It is our custom to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper kneeling, but if persons so desire, they may receive the elements while seated or standing.

Upon entering the church let the communicants bow in prayer and in the spirit of prayer and meditation approach the blessed Sacrament.

The people shall stand and join in singing the hymn, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty," or other suitable hymn, and remain standing until after the singing of the Gloria Patri.

God is a Spirit. They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Glory be to God on high.

God is Light. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Glory be to God on high.

God is Power. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Glory be to God on high.

God is Love. Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us.

Glory be to God on high.

Then the Gloria Patri shall be said or sung:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the

Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then may the minister read the Ten Commandments, and the people, still in the attitude of prayer, shall in response ask God's mercy for their transgressions in times past and grace to keep the law in time to come.

God spake these words and said: I am the Lord thy God:

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

In place of or in addition to the Ten Commandments the minister may read the summary of the divine law in the words of Jesus, and the people, in the attitude of prayer, shall ask God's mercy and gracious aid.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Then may the minister read the Beatitudes of the Lord Jesus, and the people, still in the attitude of prayer, shall humbly ask God that they may be fulfilled in their hearts. Or here Isaiah 53:1-10 may be used as a responsive scripture.

Hear the Beatitudes of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain this blessing.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Grant unto us thy Holy Spirit, O God, and enable us to obtain all these blessings; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If desired, the following form may be used:

Hear the Beatitudes of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain these blessings.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Lord, be gracious unto us, and help us to obtain these blessings.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Grant unto us thy Holy Spirit, O God, and enable us to obtain all these blessings; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The responsive scripture, Isaiah 53:1-10:

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Then may the minister read the Epistle, to be followed by the Gospel.

Here may the minister and people repeat the Apostles' Creed or some other of the authorized affirmations of faith, the people standing.

Then may follow the sermon or communion meditation and a suitable hymn (see hymns 408-15). During the singing of this hymn the minister shall remove the linen cloth that covers the elements.

After the hymn has been sung, the minister, standing by the Lord's Table, shall announce the offering for the needy, using one or more of the following groups of sentences.

I

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall

enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

II

They shall not appear before the LORD empty: every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Be merciful after thy power. If thou hast much, give plenteously: if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little: for so gatherest thou thyself a good reward in the day of necessity.

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

III

To do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor

of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

IV

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

As the minister receives the offering, the people shall stand, and the following may be said or sung:

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

Then may the minister say:

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

The people shall remain standing while the minister reads the invitation.

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; draw

near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and devoutly kneeling make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Then shall this general confession be made by the minister and those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, the minister kneeling, facing the Lord's Table, and all the people in the attitude of prayer.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister offer this prayer:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto thee; have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

Hear what the Scripture saith to those of a humble and contrite heart:

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

After which the minister and people may say:

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

It is meet and right so to do.

Then the minister, still kneeling and facing the Lord's Table, shall say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Then shall be said or sung:

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! Amen.

Then shall the minister offer the prayer of consecration:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by the one offering of himself, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, this memorial of his precious death: hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving this bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion may also be partakers of the divine nature through him, who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread; ¹ and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Likewise

¹ Here may the minister take the plate in his hands.

after supper he took the cup;² and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

Then shall the minister, kneeling before the Lord's Table, unite with the people in this prayer:

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, whose mercy is unfailing. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to partake of these memorials of thy Son Jesus Christ, that we may be filled with the fullness of his life, may grow into his likeness, and may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Then shall the minister first receive the Holy Communion in both kinds himself, after which he shall proceed to deliver the same to other ministers in like manner, if any be present. After this, the minister shall administer the Holy Communion to the people, while they are devoutly kneeling.

Before giving the bread, the minister shall say:

Jesus said, "This is my body, which is given for you." Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

Likewise before giving the cup he shall say:

Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you." Drink this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and be thankful.

When all have communed, the minister shall place upon the Lord's Table what remains of the consecrated elements, covering the same with the linen cloth.

Then shall the minister and people say:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we, thy humble servants, desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death

² Here may the minister take the cup in his hands.

of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and thy whole Church may obtain forgiveness of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that all we who are partakers of this Holy Communion may be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

Then shall be said or sung the Gloria in Excelsis, the people standing:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty!

O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Then shall the minister let the people depart with this blessing:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

¶ 1909. AN ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER OR HOLY COMMUNION II

The Lord's Table should have upon it a fair linen cloth.

Let the pure, unfermented juice of the grape be used.

It is our custom to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper kneeling, but if persons so desire, they may receive the elements while seated or standing.

Upon entering the church let the communicants bow in prayer and in the spirit of prayer and meditation approach the blessed Sacrament.

The minister shall read one or more of these sentences, during the reading of which the stewards shall take up the offering for the needy.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we

brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

To do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.

Then shall the minister read this invitation:

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Then shall this general confession be made by the minister and all those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, both he and they humbly kneeling, and saying:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord

Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn to thee; have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by his death,

and washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Then the minister shall say the prayer of consecration as followeth:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his oblation of himself once offered), a full, perfect, and efficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again: hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee, and grant that we, receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

Then shall the minister first receive the Holy Communion in both kinds himself, and then proceed to deliver the same to the other ministers in like manner, if any be present.

Then shall he say the Lord's Prayer, the people still kneeling and repeating after him every petition:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then a hymn may be sung, and the communicants shall be invited to the Lord's Table. The minister shall deliver both kinds to the people into their hands.

When he delivereth the bread, he shall say:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

And the minister that delivereth the cup shall say:

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

When all have communed, the minister shall return to the Lord's Table, and place upon it what remaineth of the consecrated elements, covering the same with a fair linen cloth.

Then shall the minister and people say:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we, thy humble servants, desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that all we who are partakers of this Holy Communion may be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses; through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

Then may be said or sung:

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-

ship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty!

O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Then the minister, if he see it expedient, may offer an extempore prayer; and afterward shall let the people depart with this blessing:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Baptism

Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion.

It is proper and desirable that this Sacrament should not only be accompanied by prayer, admonition, and the reading of Scripture, as herein provided, but that it should be administered in the presence of the people, and most suitably in the house of God.

¶ 1910. THE ORDER FOR THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as all men are heirs of life eternal and subjects of the saving grace of the Holy Spirit; and that our Saviour Christ saith, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God; I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of

his bounteous goodness he will grant unto *this child*, now to be baptized, the continual replenishing of his grace that *he* become a worthy member of Christ's holy Church.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we beseech thee that of thine infinite goodness thou wilt look upon *this child* and grant that by the aid of thy Holy Spirit *he* may be steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, and that *he* may so live the life which now is, that *he* may enter triumphantly the life which is to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister address the parents or sponsors as follows:

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as *this child* is now presented by you for Christian Baptism, and is thus consecrated to God and to his Church, it is your part and duty to see that *he* be taught, as soon as *he* shall be able to learn, the meaning and purpose of this holy Sacrament; that *he* be instructed in the principles of our holy faith and the nature of the Christian life; that *he* shall be trained to give reverent and regular attendance upon the public and private worship of God and the teaching of the Holy Scripture; and that in every way, by precept and example, you shall seek to lead *him* into the love of God and the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you solemnly promise to fulfill these duties so far as in you lies, the Lord being your helper?

We do.

Then shall the people stand, and the minister shall say:

Hear the words of the Gospel written by St. Mark:

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Let the little children come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not re-

ceive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Then shall the minister, who may here take the child in his arms, say to the parents or sponsors:

What name shall be given to this child?

And then, repeating the name, he shall baptize the child, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, grant that *this child*, as *he grows* in years, may also grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that by the restraining and renewing influence of thy Holy Spirit *he* may ever be a true child of thine, serving thee faithfully all his days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, fount of all love and wisdom, source of all power; so guide and uphold the parents [or sponsors] of *this child* that, by loving care, wise counsel, and holy example, they may lead *him* into that life of faith whose strength is righteousness and whose fruit is everlasting joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or the minister may offer extempore prayer.

Then may the minister and the people say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then may be sung a hymn, such as:

406—"Friend of the home: as when in Galilee."

407—"See Israel's gentle Shepherd stand."

440—"I think when I read."

Then may the minister say:

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and evermore. **Amen.**

¶ 1911. THE ORDER FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The minister, coming to the font, shall say:

Hear the words of the gospel written by St. Matthew, in the twenty-eighth chapter, beginning at the sixteenth verse.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ gave himself for our salvation, and did command his disciples that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy congregation; and grant that *these persons* now to be baptized may so open *their hearts* to thee that *they* may receive the fullness of thy grace, and may ever remain in the number of thy faithful children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the minister shall say to persons to be baptized:

Well beloved, who are come hither, desiring to receive holy Baptism, you have heard how the congregation hath

prayed that God would assist you to open your *hearts* to his love and direction, that you may be faithful *disciples* of our Lord.

Wherefore, for your part, it is needful that in the presence of Almighty God, and the hearing of this congregation, you should now make known your purpose to accept the obligations of this holy Sacrament by answering the following questions:

Will you faithfully put away from you every known sin, of thought, word, or deed, and accept and confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

God helping me, I will.

Will you diligently study the Bible as God's Holy Word, and in all things strive to make it the rule of your life?

God helping me, I will.

Having been taught how the Spirit of our Lord separates right from wrong, will you faithfully endeavor to live so as to be pleasing unto him?

God helping me, I will.

Will you be baptized in this faith?

This is my desire.

Then shall the minister ask each person his name, and shall baptize him, saying:

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Here the minister shall offer an extempore prayer.

¶ 1912. THE ORDER FOR THE BAPTISM OF ADULTS

The minister, addressing the people, shall say:

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as our Saviour Jesus Christ sent forth his disciples to teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and wherefore these persons come now to be baptized, I beseech you to call upon God the Father that of his bounteous goodness he will grant unto *them*

the renewing power of the Holy Spirit and enable *them* by divine grace to attain unto the fullness of salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray.

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succor, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon thee for *these persons* now to be baptized. May *they* be filled with thy Holy Spirit and may *they* find in thee *their* refuge, *their* strength, *their* wisdom, and *their* joy. May *they* be faithful to thee all the days of *their* life and finally come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then may the minister read one or more of the following lessons:

Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when

Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them.

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family of heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Then shall the minister say to the persons to be baptized:

Dearly beloved, who have come hither desiring to receive holy Baptism, the congregation gives thanks to God for your coming, and prays that the Holy Spirit may dwell within you, and that your faith may not fail. In the hearing of this congregation you should now make known your purpose to accept the obligations of this holy Sacrament.

Do you truly repent of your sins and accept and confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

I do.

Will you earnestly endeavor to keep God's holy will and commandments?

I will.

Do you desire to be baptized in this faith?

I do.

Then shall the minister pray:

O merciful God, grant that all sinful affections may die in these persons, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in them. **Amen.**

Almighty, everliving God; regard, we beseech thee, our supplications and grant that these persons may receive the fullness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the minister, asking the name of each person, shall baptize him, repeating the name and saying:

N., I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then may the minister offer extempore prayer. Then may the minister and the people say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then may be sung one or more stanzas of a hymn, such as:

223—"Blessed Master, I have promised."

226—"O Jesus, I have promised."

257—"My gracious Lord, I own thy right."

Then may the minister say:

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be

glory and majesty, dominion and power, now and evermore. **Amen.**

¶ 1913. THE ORDER FOR RECEIVING PERSONS AS PREPARATORY MEMBERS

[The use of this form is optional.]

Those who are to be received as preparatory members shall be called forward by name, and the minister, addressing the people, shall say:

Dearly beloved, that none may be admitted hastily into the Church, we receive persons who seek fellowship with us into a preparatory membership, in which they may be properly instructed, and also give proof, both to themselves and to the Church, of the sincerity and depth of their convictions and of the strength and purpose to lead a new life.

Then, addressing the persons seeking admission as preparatory members, the minister shall say:

Beloved in the Lord, you have by the grace of God made your decision to follow Christ and to serve him. Your confidence in so doing is not to be based on any notion of fitness or worthiness in yourselves, but on the gracious promise of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

That the Church may know your purpose, you will answer the following questions:

Have you an earnest desire to be saved from your sins?

I have.

Will you guard yourself against all things contrary to the teachings of God's Word, and endeavor to lead a holy life, following the commandments of God?

I will.

Will you give reverent attendance upon the private and public worship of God and the teaching of the Word?

I will.

Then shall the minister say:

On behalf of the Church, and in the hope that you will go forward to complete membership therein, I give you cordial welcome.

Then may the minister offer extempore prayer.

¶ 1914. THE ORDER FOR RECEIVING PERSONS INTO THE CHURCH

On the day appointed, all that are to be received into the Church shall be called forward, and the minister, addressing the people, shall say:

Dearly beloved, the Church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the promotion of his worship and the due administration of his word and ordinances, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

Into this holy fellowship the *persons* before you, who have received the Sacrament of Baptism, who have learned the nature of these privileges and these duties, and who have also been instructed in the teachings and the aims of The Methodist Church, come seeking admission. We now propose in the fear of God to question them as to their faith and purpose, that you may know that they are proper persons to be admitted into this church.

Then, addressing those seeking admission, the minister shall say:

Beloved in the Lord, you are come hither seeking union with the Church of God. We rejoice that you are minded to undertake the privileges and the duties of membership in the Church. Before you are fully admitted thereto, you should here publicly renew your vows, confess your faith, and declare your purpose, by answering the following questions:

Do you here in the presence of God and this congregation renew the solemn promise and vow that was made at your baptism?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord and pledge your allegiance to his Kingdom?

I do.

Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ?

I do.

Will you be loyal to The Methodist Church, and uphold it by your attendance, your prayers, your gifts, and your service?

I will.

Then those to be received shall kneel, and the minister, who may lay his hands upon the head of every one severally, shall say:

N., the Lord defend thee with his heavenly grace and by his Spirit confirm thee in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Here the following form may be used:

Those being received shall rise, and the minister, addressing the people, shall say:

Brethren, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day recognize as members of the Church of Christ. What is your mind to them?

Whereupon the people shall say:

We rejoice to recognize you as members of the Church of Christ, and bid you welcome to all its privileges. Your peace, joy, and welfare are now our own. With you we renew our pledge to God and this church. The LORD bless you, and keep you: the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

Or the following alternative form may be used:

The minister shall say to the candidates:

We rejoice to recognize you as members of the Church of Christ, and bid you welcome to all its privileges; and in token of our brotherly love we give you the right hand of fellowship, and pray that you may be numbered with his people here, and with his saints in glory everlasting.

And the minister shall say to the congregation:

Brethren, I commend to your love and care these persons whom we this day recognize as members of the

Church of Christ. Do all in your power to increase *their* faith, confirm *their* hope, and perfect *them* in love.

Then may be sung one or more stanzas of a hymn, such as:
 379—"I love thy Kingdom, Lord."
 380—"Jesus, with thy Church abide."
 383—"How lovely is thy dwelling place."

Then may the minister say:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ 1915. THE ORDER FOR RECEIVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH INTO THE CHURCH

After the minister previously shall have formed the children into a class (baptizing any whose baptism may have been delayed or neglected), and shall have instructed them in the things necessary for them to know as to the doctrines and rules of the Church, he shall cause them to be conveniently placed before the congregation, and after inviting their parents and teachers to stand with them on either hand, he shall say:

Brethren of the household of faith, let our hearts be lifted up in thanksgiving to Almighty God, who by the Holy Spirit hath inclined *these children*² to desire and ask for membership in the Church. As *they* have arrived at the years of discretion, and now of *their* own accord appear before this congregation to take upon *themselves* the vows and enter upon the privileges and duties of the Church, let us with one mind and heart most earnestly invoke in *their* behalf the blessings of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, giver of every good and perfect gift; accept our hearty thanks for the *children* whom thou hast committed to our love and care. As thou

² The minister may use the words "youth" or "young people" at his discretion in place of the word "children" here and at other appropriate places in this order.

didst bring *them* into the world, now renew in thy servants, *their* parents, pastors, and teachers, wisdom to train *them* in the way *they* should go. Grant unto *these thy children* that from this day forth *they* may grow in grace, and wisdom, and in favor with God and man; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister address the parents or sponsors:

Dearly beloved, let this be to you a day of peculiar joy and thanksgiving, in that *these* who are your own have also entered into a holier spiritual kinship with you in Jesus Christ. While the Church will continue to share with you the duty and privilege of bringing up *these children* in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, it renews its solemn injunction to you, by God's help, faithfully to continue both to teach and to train *them*, by example and precept, in the way of the Lord. Will you accept this duty, in the fear and favor of God, and here and now, in the presence of Almighty God and this congregation, renew the vows made by you in the baptism of *these children*?

With God's help, I will.

Then shall the minister address the children who are candidates and say:

Beloved *children*, our Lord Jesus by his holy Word, hath expressly given to everyone who believes in him a place in his Kingdom and Church. Before you are admitted into the Church, it becomes my duty to inquire of you as to your purpose of mind and heart:

Do you, *each of you*, believe in God as your heavenly Father?

I do.

Do you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?

I do.

Do you believe in the Bible as God's holy Word?

I do.

Will you be loyal to The Methodist Church and uphold

it by your attendance, your prayers, your gifts, and your service?

I will.

Here the minister may offer an extempore prayer. Then those to be received shall kneel, and the minister, laying his hands upon every one of them severally, shall say:

I receive you into the Church of Christ and pray God to confirm you in the faith and fellowship of all true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then shall the minister, the people, and the children say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

¶ 1916. THE ORDER FOR RECEIVING MEMBERS BY TRANSFER OR ON REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH OR IN AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

The minister shall say:

The following persons present certificates of transfer commending them to the fellowship of this church: [names].

The following persons who have been members of the Church desire to present themselves for reaffirmation of their faith and reception into the fellowship of this church: [names].

The following persons, while retaining their membership in other churches, are to be welcomed as affiliate members in the fellowship of this church: [names].

The persons named will now present themselves for public reception into the fellowship of this church.

When they come forward, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, you have already confessed your faith in Christ, and given yourselves to the service of God. As

you come to join this church, will you renew your vows previously taken, and will you labor and pray for its up-building, and live with this people of God in Christian fellowship?

I will.

The members of this church bid you welcome, and on their behalf I give you the right hand of fellowship. We pray that, as all of us are united in faith and brotherhood, we may grow into the likeness of Christ, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

¶ 1917. THE ORDER FOR THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MATRIMONY

At the time appointed, the persons to be married—having been qualified according to the law of the state and the standards of the church—standing together facing the minister, the man at the minister's left hand and the woman at the right, the minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence in Cana of Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined.

Speaking to the persons to be married, the minister shall say:

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, to remember that love and loyalty alone will avail as the foundation of a happy and enduring home. No other human ties are more tender, no other vows more sacred than those you now assume. If these

solemn vows be kept inviolate, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, your life will be full of joy, and the home which you are establishing will abide in peace.

Then shall the minister say to the man, using his Christian name:

N., wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all other keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The man shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the minister say to the woman, using her Christian name:

N., wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and forsaking all other keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The woman shall answer:

I will.

Then may the minister say:

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

The father of the woman, or whoever giveth her in marriage, shall answer:

I do.

Then the minister (receiving the hand of the woman from her father or other sponsor) shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and say after him:

I, N., take thee, N., to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

Then shall they loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall say after the minister:

I, N., take thee, N., to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

Then shall they again loose their hands; and they may give unto each other rings, or the man may give unto the woman a ring, on this wise: The minister, taking the ring or rings, shall say:

The wedding ring is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying unto all the uniting of this man and this woman in holy matrimony, through the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Then the minister may say:

Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may abide forever in thy peace, and continue in thy favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or, if there be but one ring, the minister may say:

Bless, O Lord, the giving of this ring, that he who gives it and she who wears it may abide forever in thy peace, and continue in thy favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The minister shall then deliver the proper ring to the man to put upon the third finger of the woman's left hand. The man, holding the ring there, shall say after the minister:

In token and pledge of the vow between us made, with this ring I thee wed; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then, if there be a second ring, the minister shall deliver it to the woman to put upon the third finger of the man's left hand; and the woman, holding the ring there, shall say after the minister:

In token and pledge of the vow between us made, with this ring I thee wed; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life; send thy blessing upon this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister join their right hands together and with his hand on their united hands shall say:

Forasmuch as N. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their troth each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands (and by giving and receiving a ring); I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. **Amen.**

Then, the husband and wife kneeling, the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. **Amen.**

Then shall the minister add this blessing:

God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord graciously with his favor look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual bene-

diction and love that you may so live together in this life that in the world to come you may have life everlasting. **Amen.**

¶ 1918. THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

The minister shall begin the service by reading one or more of the following sentences:

Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

The righteous live forever, and the care of them is with the most High: with his right hand he shall cover them, and with his arm shall he shield them.

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

Here may the minister offer one or both of the following prayers, ending with the Lord's Prayer.

Almighty God, fount of all life; thou art our refuge and strength; thou art our help in trouble. Enable us, we pray thee, to put our trust in thee, that we may obtain comfort, and find grace to help in this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come, and unto whom our spirits return; thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Grant us thy blessing in this hour, and enable us so to put our trust in thee that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth,

and help us to see the light of eternity. So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Here may be read one or more of these lessons from the Old Testament:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up.

In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children.

And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Here may be said or sung the Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Here shall be read one or more of these lessons from the New Testament:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. I am the way, the truth, and the life. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Because I live, ye shall live also.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor

height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.

It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manners of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Here may follow music and an address, closing with extempore prayer, or one of the following prayers:

Eternal God, who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life; since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving thee is always present, may we wake to the instant claims of thy holy will, not waiting for tomorrow, but yielding today. Consecrate with thy presence the way our feet may go; and the humblest work will shine, and the roughest places be made plain. Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust into faith and hope and love by a simple and steadfast reliance on thy sure will. In all things draw

us to the mind of Christ, that thy lost image may be traced again, and that thou mayest own us as at one with him and thee. Amen.

O God, who art the strength of thy saints, and who redeemest the souls of thy servants; we bless thy name for all those who have died in the Lord, and who now rest from their labors, having received the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls. Especially we call to remembrance thy lovingkindness and thy tender mercies to this thy servant. For all thy goodness that withheld not *his* portion in the joys of this earthly life, and for thy guiding hand along the way of *his* pilgrimage, we give thee thanks and praise. Especially we bless thee for thy grace that kindled in *his* heart the love of thy dear name, that enabled *him* to fight the good fight, to endure unto the end, and to obtain the victory, yea, to become more than conqueror, through him that loveth us. We magnify thy holy name that, *his* trials and temptations being ended, sickness and death being passed, with all the dangers and difficulties of this mortal life, *his* spirit is at home in thy presence, with whom dwelleth eternal peace. And grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that we who rejoice in the triumph of thy saints may profit by their example, that, becoming followers of their faith and patience, we also may enter with them into an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fade not away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, the Lord of life, the Conqueror of death, our help in every time of trouble who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men; comfort us who mourn, and give us grace, in the presence of death, to worship thee, that we may have sure hope of eternal life and be enabled to put our whole trust in thy goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father of spirits, we have joy at this time in all who have faithfully lived, and in all who have peacefully died. We thank thee for all fair memories and all living hopes; for the sacred ties that bind us to the unseen world; for

the dear and holy dead who compass us as a cloud of witnesses, and make the distant heaven a home to our hearts. May we be followers of those who now inherit the promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord and Master, who thyself didst weep beside the grave, and art touched with the feeling of our sorrows; fulfill now thy promise that thou wilt not leave thy people comfortless, but wilt come to them. Reveal thyself unto thy sorrowing servants, and cause them to hear thee say, I am the resurrection, and the life. Help them, O Lord, to turn to thee with true discernment, and to abide in thee through living faith, that, finding now the comfort of thy presence, they may have also a sure confidence in thee for all that is to come; until the day break, and the shadows flee away. Hear us for thy great mercy's sake, O Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Thou who hast ordered this wondrous world, and who knowest all things in earth and heaven; so fill our hearts with trust in thee that, by night and by day, at all times and in all seasons, we may without fear commit those who are dear to us to thy never-failing love for this life and the life to come. **Amen.**

O Lord, we pray thee, give us thy strength, that we may live more bravely and faithfully for the sake of those who are no longer with us here upon earth; and grant us so to serve thee day by day that we may find eternal fellowship with them; through him who died and rose again for us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who art leading us through the changes of time to the rest and blessedness of eternity; be thou near to comfort and uphold. Make us to know and feel that thy children are precious in thy sight, that they live evermore with thee, and that thy mercy endureth forever. Thankful for the life which thou hast given us for these seasons, we pray thy help now to resign it obediently unto thee. Assist us to return to the scenes of our daily life, to obey thy will with patience, and to bear our

trials with fortitude and hope. And when the peace of death falls upon us, may we find our perfect rest in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may the minister say:

The LORD bless you, and keep you: the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

At the grave, when the people are assembled, the minister shall say:

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you.

The mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

Then the minister may say:

Forasmuch as the spirit of the departed has entered into the life immortal, we therefore commit *his* body to its resting place, but *his* spirit we commend to God, remembering how Jesus said upon the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Or the minister may say:

Forasmuch as Almighty God hath received unto himself the soul of our departed *brother*, we therefore tenderly commit *his* body to the ground, in the blessed hope that as *he* hath borne the image of the earthly so also *he* shall bear the image of the heavenly.

Or the minister may say:

Forasmuch as the spirit of the departed hath returned to God who gave it, we therefore commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come, through our Lord Jesus

Christ; at whose coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the earth and the sea shall give up their dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in him shall be changed and made like unto his own glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself.

Then may be said:

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me:

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Here may the minister and people unite in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then the minister may say one or more of the following prayers:

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful after death are in strength and gladness; we give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labor. And we beseech thee that we, with all those who have finished their course in faith, may have our perfect consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life, in whom whosoever believeth shall live, though he died, and whosoever liveth and believeth in him shall not die eternally; we meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of

sin unto the life of righteousness, that when we shall depart this life we may rest in him, and may receive that blessing which thy well-beloved Son shall pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

O God of infinite compassion, who art the comforter of thy children; look down in thy tender love and pity, we beseech thee, upon thy servants. In the stillness of our hearts we entreat for them thy sustaining grace. Be thou their stay, their strength, and their shield, that trusting in thee they may know thy presence near, and in the assurance of thy love be delivered out of their distresses; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**⁴

Then may the minister say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **Amen.**

¶ 1919. THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

The minister shall begin the service by reading the following sentences:

Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray.

Here may the minister offer one or both of the following prayers:

Our heavenly Father, look upon us in our sorrow, and abide with us in our loneliness. O thou who makest no

⁴ Adapted by permission from *The Book of Common Order* (1932) of the United Church of Canada.

life in vain, and who lovest all that thou hast made, lift upon us the light of thy countenance and give us peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God our Father, we pray that thou wilt keep in tender love the life which we shall hold in blessed memory. Help us who continue here to serve thee with constancy, trusting in thy promise of eternal life, that hereafter we may be united with thy blessed children in glory everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Here may be read:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Here shall be read these lessons from the Gospel:

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Who-soever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Take heed that we despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. I am the way, the truth, and the life. If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Because I live, ye shall live also.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Here may follow music and an address, after which the minister shall say:

Let us pray.

Here may the minister offer extempore prayer or one or more of the following prayers:

O God, who art the Father of the families of the earth; look with compassion upon this bereaved family, and pour thy heavenly comfort into their hearts. Help them by faith to see this child, over whom they grieve, safe in that home where sin and sorrow cannot enter. Enrich with thy presence those who mourn; abide in their home; lift up their hearts; bless them with thy favor, which is

better than life; and so guide them through the trials and temptations of this world that their reunited family may know fullness of joy in thy presence for evermore. Grant this through him who loved little children and blessed them, even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O merciful Father, whose face the angels of thy little ones do always behold in heaven; grant us steadfastly to believe that this thy child hath been taken into the sake keeping of thine eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who healest the broken in heart, and bindest up their wounds; look down in tender pity and compassion upon thy servants whose joy has been turned into mourning. Leave them not comfortless, but grant that they may be drawn closer to one another by their common sorrow. As thou hast given them this new tie to bind them to the world unseen, so grant unto them that where their treasure is, there may their hearts be also. Fill their souls with the light and comfort of thy presence. Grant unto them such a vision of that life wherein all mysteries shall be revealed, and all tears be wiped away, that they may be able to endure as seeing thee who art invisible. So dwell with them and be their God, until the day break and the shadows flee away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may the minister say:

The LORD bless you, and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

At the grave, when the people are assembled, the minister shall say:

Jesus saith to his disciples, Ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Forasmuch as the departed has entered into the life immortal, we therefore commit *his* body to its resting place, but *his* spirit we commend to God, remembering

how Jesus said upon the cross, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Then shall the minister say:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave his life for our redemption, and who promised the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; strengthen, we beseech thee, the faith of these bereaved ones, that they may contemplate with peace the blessedness of that eternal home which thou hast prepared for all who love and serve thee. Grant that they, and all others whose joy is turned into mourning, cleaving more closely unto him who is the resurrection and the life, may be led by thy spirit through this uncertain life, till the day break and the shadows flee away. **Amen.**

O God, whose most dear Son did take little children into his arms and bless them; give us grace, we beseech thee, to entrust the soul of this child to thy never-failing care and love, and bring us all to thy heavenly kingdom; through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of all comfort; deal graciously, we pray thee, with all those who mourn; that, casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Here the minister and the people may unite in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

Then may the minister say:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **Amen.**

¶ 1920. THE ORDER FOR THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

When the day appointed by the bishop is come, there shall be a sermon or exhortation declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted deacons, how necessary that order is in the Church of Christ, and also how the people ought to esteem them in their office; after which one of the elders shall present unto the bishop all who are to be ordained, and say:

I present unto you these persons present to be ordained deacons: [names].

Their names having been read aloud, the bishop shall say to the people:

Brethren, these are they whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain deacons. For, after due examination, we find that they are lawfully called to this office and ministry and that they are persons meet for the same. But if there be any of you who knoweth any valid reason for which any one of them ought not to be received into this holy ministry, let him come forth in the name of God, and disclose what the impediment is.

If any impediment be alleged, the bishop shall desist from ordaining that person until he shall be found to be innocent.

Then shall be read the Collect:

Almighty God, who by thy divine providence hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church, and didst inspire thine apostles to choose into the order of deacons thy first martyr, St. Stephen, with others; mercifully behold these thy servants, now called to the like office and administration; so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn them with innocency of life, that by both word and good example they may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name and the edification of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Then shall be read the Epistle:

Likewise must the deacons be grave, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. They that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to them-

selves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

Then shall the bishop, in the presence of the people, examine every one of those to be ordained, after this manner:

Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the office of the ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of his glory and the edifying of his people?

I trust so.

Do you unfeignedly believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do believe them.

Will you diligently read and expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

I will.

It appertaineth to the office of a deacon to conduct divine worship and to assist the elder when he ministereth the Holy Communion, to help him in the distribution thereof; to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth; and to baptize. And, furthermore, it is his office to search for the needy, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

I will so do, by the help of God.

Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own *lives* and the lives of your *families* according to the teachings of Christ?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you reverently heed them to whom the charge over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

I will so do.

Then those to be ordained shall kneel, and the bishop, laying his hands severally upon the head of every one of them, shall say:

Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the Church of God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop deliver to every one of them the Bible, saying:

Take thou authority to read the Holy Scriptures in the Church of God, and to preach the Word. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop, or one appointed by him, read the Gospel:

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Then shall the bishop pray:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who of thy great goodness hast vouchsafed to accept *these* thy *servants* into the office of deacon in thy Church; make *them*, we beseech thee, O Lord, to be modest, humble, and constant in *their* ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that *they*, continuing ever stable and strong in thy Son Jesus Christ, may so well behave *themselves* in this office that *they* may be found worthy to be called into the higher ministry in thy Church; through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honor, world without end. **Amen.**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may the bishop say:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ 1921. THE ORDER FOR THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS

When the day appointed by the bishop is come, there shall be a sermon of exhortation declaring the duty and office of such as come to be admitted elders, how necessary that order is in the Church of Christ, and also how the people ought to esteem them in their office; after which one of the elders shall present unto the bishop all who are to be ordained, and say:

I present unto you these persons present to be ordained elders: [names].

Their names having been read aloud, the bishop shall say to the people:

Brethren, *these are they* whom we purpose, God willing, this day to ordain *elders*. For, after due inquiry, we

find that *they are* lawfully called to this office and ministry, and that *they are persons* meet for the same. But if there be any of you who knoweth any valid reason for which *any one of them* ought not to be received into this holy ministry, let him come forth in the name of God, and disclose what the impediment is.

If any impediment be alleged, the bishop shall desist from ordaining that person until he shall be found to be innocent.

Then shall be read the Collect:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers orders of ministers in thy Church; mercifully behold *these thy servants*, now called to the office of elder, and so replenish *them* with the truth of thy doctrine, and adorn *them* with innocency of life, that by both word and good example *they* may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name and the advancement of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

Then shall be read the Epistle and the Gospel:

I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Jesus said, I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and

to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Then shall the bishop say unto the persons to be ordained elders:

Dearly beloved, you have heard of what dignity and of how great importance is this office whereunto you are called. And now again we exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you are to be *messengers, watchmen, and stewards* of the Lord; to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

Have always, therefore, in your remembrance how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they unto whom you are to minister are the sheep of Christ, for whom he gave his life. The Church which you must serve is his Bride and his Body. And if it shall happen the Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault. Wherefore see that you never cease your labor, your care, and your diligence until you have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as shall be committed to your charge unto perfectness in Christ.

Forasmuch, then, as your office is both of so great excellency and of so great difficulty, consider how you ought to forsake, as much as you can, all worldly cares, and be studious in learning the Scriptures, and in acquiring

such knowledge and skill as may help you to declare the living Word of God.

We hope that you have weighed and pondered these things with *yourselves* long before this time, and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give *yourselves* wholly to this work whereunto it has pleased God to call you. Also that you will continually pray that the Holy Spirit may assist you to order the lives of you and yours after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that you may grow riper and stronger in ministry and be godly and wholesome *examples* for the people to follow.

And now, that this congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your purpose in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to perform your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his Church, shall ask of you touching the same:

Do you believe in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the ministry of elders?

I do so believe.

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all truth required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the same Holy Scriptures so to instruct the people committed to your charge that they may enter into eternal life?

I am so persuaded and determined, by God's grace.

Will you give faithful diligence duly to minister the doctrine of Christ, the Sacraments, and the discipline of the Church, and in the spirit of Christ to defend the Church against all doctrine contrary to God's Word?

I will so do, by the help of the Lord.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of God and of his Kingdom?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you apply all your diligence to frame and fashion your own *lives* and the lives of your *families* according to the teachings of Christ?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that shall be committed to your charge?

I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

Will you reverently heed them to whom the charge over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions?

I will so do.

Then shall the bishop say:

Almighty God, who hath given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you power to perform the same, that he may accomplish his work which he hath begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the people shall be requested to make their earnest supplications in silent prayer to God for those who are to be ordained as elders, and silence shall be kept for a space; after which shall be said the Veni, Creator Spiritus, the bishop beginning, and all others answering as followeth, both the bishop and the people uniting in the final couplet.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.

Keep far our foes; give peace at home;
Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both to be but One;

That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song:

***Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Then shall the bishop say:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we bless and magnify thy holy name for the gift of thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and for all his apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors, whom he hath sent abroad into the world. For these here present whom thou hast called to the same holy office and ministry, we render unto thee our most hearty thanks. And now, O Lord, we humbly beseech thee to grant that by *these thy ministers*, and by those over whom *they* shall be appointed, thy holy name may be forever glorified, and thy blessed Kingdom enlarged; through thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop and the elders present lay their hands severally upon the head of every one that receiveth the order of elder, the receivers kneeling, and the bishop saying:

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the authority of the Church through the imposition of our hands. And be thou a faithful dispenser of the Word of God, and of his holy Sacraments; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop deliver to every one of them, kneeling, the Bible into his hands, saying:

Take thou authority as an elder in the Church to preach the Word of God, and to administer the holy Sacraments in the congregation. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop pray:

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send upon *these thy servants* thy heavenly blessings, that *they* may be clothed with righteousness, and that thy Word spoken by *them* may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that

we may have grace to receive what *they* shall deliver out of thy Word as the means of our salvation, and that in all our words and deeds we may seek thy glory, and the increase of thy Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may the bishop say:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

If on the same day the order for deacon be given to some and that of elder to others, the deacons shall be first presented and then the elders. The Collect shall be said and the Epistle read, immediately after which they who are to be ordained deacons shall be examined and ordained as above described. Then, the Gospel having been read, they who are to be ordained elders shall likewise be examined and ordained, as in this office before appointed.

¶ 1922. THE ORDER FOR THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS

When the time appointed for the consecration of bishops is come, the service shall begin with a hymn, after which the Collect shall be read:

Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to thy holy apostles, elders, and evangelists many excellent gifts, and didst charge them to feed thy flock; give grace, we beseech thee, to all the ministers and pastors of thy Church, that they may diligently preach thy Word and duly administer the godly discipline thereof; and grant to the people that they may faithfully follow the same, that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then shall one of the elders read the Epistle:

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me: how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Spirit witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Then shall another elder read the Gospel:

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the

third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus said unto him, Feed my sheep.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Then shall the elected person be presented by two elders unto the bishop, the elders saying:

We present unto you this elder chosen to be consecrated a bishop.

Then shall the bishop call upon the people present to pray, saying:

Dearly beloved, it is written in the Gospel of St. Luke that our Saviour Christ continued the whole night in prayer before he chose and sent forth his twelve apostles. It is also written in the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples who were at Antioch did fast and pray before they laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them forth on their first mission to the Gentiles. Let us therefore, following the example of our Saviour Christ and his apostles, give ourselves to prayer before we admit and send forth *this person* presented to us, to the work whereunto we trust the Holy Spirit hath called *him*.

Then shall the bishop pray:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by thy Holy Spirit hast appointed divers offices in thy Church; graciously behold *this thy servant* now called to the office and ministry of a bishop. So replenish *him* with the truth of thy doctrine, and so adorn *him* with innocency of life, that by both word and deed *he* may faithfully serve thee in this office, to the glory of thy name and the edifying and well governing of thy Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth

and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop say to him that is to be consecrated:

Brother, forasmuch as the Holy Scriptures command that we should not be hasty in admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ, before you are admitted to this ministration, you will, in the fear of God, give answer to these questions:

Are you persuaded that you are truly called to this ministration, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ?

I am so persuaded.

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all truth required for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined out of the same Holy Scriptures so to instruct the people committed to your charge that they may enter into eternal life?

I am so persuaded and determined, by God's grace.

Will you then faithfully exercise *yourself* in the Holy Scriptures, and call upon God through study and prayer for the true understanding of the same?

I will so do, by the help of God.

Are you ready with all faithful diligence to seek and to promote the truth of Christ and to defend the Church against all doctrine contrary to God's Word?

I am ready, the Lord being my helper.

Will you live soberly, righteously, and devoutly in this present world, that you may show *yourself* in all things an example of good works unto others, to the honor and glory of God?

I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

Will you show *yourself* gentle, and be merciful for Christ's sake to poor and needy people, and to all strangers destitute of help?

I will, by the help of God.

Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, love, and peace among all men; and

faithfully exercise such discipline in the Church as shall be committed unto you?

I will so do, by the help of God.

Will you be faithful in ordaining and appointing others; and will you ever seek to deal justly and kindly with your brethren of the ministry over whom you are placed as chief pastor?

I will so do, by the help of God.

Then shall the bishop pray:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hath given you a good will to do all these things, grant also unto you wisdom and power to perform the same, that he may accomplish in you the good work which he hath begun, that you may be found blameless; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the people shall be requested to make their earnest supplications in silent prayer to God for those who are to be consecrated as bishops, and silence shall be kept for a space; after which shall be said the Veni, Creator Spiritus, the bishop beginning, and all others answering as followeth, both the bishop and the people uniting in the final couplet.

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire.

**Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.**

Thy blessed unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

**Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight.**

Anoint and cheer our soiled face
With the abundance of thy grace.

**Keep far our foes; give peace at home;
Where thou art Guide, no ill can come.**

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of both, to be but One;

**That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song:**

*Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

*Then shall the bishop say:
Let us pray.*

Almighty and most merciful Father, who of thine infinite goodness hast given thine only and dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer, and hast made some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to the edifying and making perfect of thy Church; grant, we beseech thee, to *this thy servant* such grace that *he* may evermore be ready to spread abroad thy gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with thee, and to use the authority given *him*, not to destruction, but to salvation; not to hurt, but to help; so that as *a wise and faithful servant*, giving to all their portion in due season, *he* may at last be received into everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Then the bishops and elders present shall lay their hands upon the head of the elected person kneeling before them, the consecrating bishop saying:

The Lord pour upon thee the Holy Spirit for the office and work of a bishop in the Church of God, now committed unto thee by the authority of the Church through the imposition of our hands, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And remember that thou stir up the grace of God which is in thee; for God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop deliver to him the Bible, saying:

Give heed unto reading, exhortation, and teaching. Think upon the things contained in this Book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifest unto all men. Take heed unto thyself and to thy teaching; for by so doing thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcast, seek the lost; faithfully

minister discipline, but forget not mercy; that the Kingdom of God may come upon the earth and, when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, that you may receive the never-fading crown of glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then shall the bishop pray:

Most merciful Father, we beseech thee to send down upon *this thy servant* thy heavenly blessing, and so endue *him* with thy Holy Spirit that *he*, preaching thy word, not only may be earnest to reprove, beseech, and rebuke with all patience and doctrine, but also may be to such as believe a wholesome example in word, in conversation, in love, in faith, in chastity, and in purity; that, faithfully fulfilling *his* course, at the latter day *he* may receive the crown of righteousness laid up by the Lord, the righteous judge, who liveth and reigneth, one God with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. **Amen.**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may the bishop say:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ 1923. AN ORDER FOR LICENSING PERSONS TO PREACH

At the time appointed, those to be licensed shall be presented by their respective pastors, one of whom shall say:

Brethren, we present unto you *these persons* to be licensed to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ: [names].

Their names having been read aloud, the district superintendent shall say:

Take heed that *these persons* whom you present unto us this day are fitted in character and skill for this sacred vocation.

Then shall the pastor say:

Their churches have inquired diligently concerning them and have examined them and found them so to be.

The district superintendent shall then say:

Brethren, you have heard the recommendation of *these persons* by *their pastors*. If there be any of you who knows any reason why *any one of them* should not be licensed to preach the gospel, let him arise now and declare the same.

If no impediment be alleged, the district superintendent shall say:

All vocations are sacred in the sight of the Lord, who created all things and sanctified them by the power of his Spirit. Especially precious in his sight is the preaching of his Word.

Then shall the Scripture be read:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

The district superintendent shall then ask of those being licensed:

Do you believe you are moved by the Holy Spirit to preach the Word of God?

I do.

Will you strive to live a life in keeping with what you preach?

I will.

Then shall the district superintendent say to every one severally:

N., take thou authority to preach the truths of the Old and New Testaments in the Church of God.

Then shall the district superintendent pray:

Almighty God, whose Word is truth, in the keeping of which is eternal life; we thank thee for *these persons* whom this day we set aside in thy name as *preachers* of thy gospel. Prepare *them* in body, mind, and spirit for *their* task, and continue *them* in thy grace, that *they* may increase and bless thy Church through *their* labors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may the district superintendent say:

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ 1924. AN ORDER FOR THE ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES TO MEMBERSHIP IN AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This order provides a single service for admitting classes both on trial and into full connection. When it is to be used for only one class, the bishop, following his address or exhortation, may select the portion of the order which concerns this class, then conclude with the prayer of consecration and the benediction.

When the time appointed is come, the bishop shall have those to be admitted seated before him by classes.

HYMN *The people standing.*

CALL TO PRAYER

Bishop: The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him in truth.

People: **Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.**

INVOCATION *The bishop.*

Let us pray.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR UNITY IN FAITH *Here let the people unite with the bishop in prayer.*

O God, who hast joined together divers peoples in the confession of thy name; grant us both to will and to be able to do what thou commandest, that thy people, being called to an eternal inheritance, may hold the same faith in their hearts, and disclose the same godliness in their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *The bishop.*

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. **Amen.**

COLLECT *Here let all the people unite with the bishop in prayer.*

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; send down upon all ministers, and upon the people committed to their charge, the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that they may give themselves with all their powers unto thee, and so bring forward thy Kingdom of righteousness, peace, and good will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

THE LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT *Joshua 1:5-9.*

GLORIA PATRI *Here let all the people arise and sing.*

THE LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT *John 10:9-16.*

HYMN OF PRAISE *Which may be followed by an address or exhortation by the bishop.*

THE ADMISSION ON TRIAL *Here the bishop shall cause to stand before him those who are to be admitted on trial, and shall address them as follows:*

Dearly beloved, this is a solemn hour in your life and also a high moment in the proceedings of this conference. You are entering into a glorious fellowship. You are following in the footsteps of those who have sought to spread scriptural holiness through the lands of the earth. There is no calling more sacred than that which you now enter, and there is no privilege more meaningful than that which comes to you through this holy ministry. Before this Annual Conference I ask you:

Is it your purpose, following the leadership of God's Spirit, to give faithful diligence to the work of the ministry?

It is my purpose, with God's help, to give myself fully to the work of the ministry, and to serve God faithfully all my days.

After this the formal vote on admitting the candidates to membership on trial shall be taken. Then those received shall return to their seats.

THE ADMISSION INTO FULL CONNECTION *Here the bishop shall cause to stand before him those who are to be admitted into full connection, and shall address them as follows:*

According to the usage and Discipline of The Methodist Church, you have indicated that you are convinced that you should enter the ministry of Christ's holy Church. You have declared that you are willing to face any sacrifice that may be involved in the consecration of life. You have indicated that you are so situated in life that you can accept the obligations of the itinerant minister. You have affirmed that you will abstain from those acts which may injure your work and influence as a

minister of Christ, and that you will keep before you as the one great objective of your life the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Give heed to the words of the gospel of Christ when he said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

In accordance with the Discipline of The Methodist Church and the historic usages of our communion, you will in the presence of this conference give answer to the following questions:

- (1) Have you faith in Christ?
- (2) Are you going on to perfection?
- (3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
- (4) Are you earnestly striving after it?
- (5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and his work?
- (6) Do you know the General Rules of our church?
- (7) Will you keep them?
- (8) Have you studied the doctrines of The Methodist Church?
- (9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
- (10) Will you preach and maintain them?
- (11) Have you studied our form of church discipline and polity?
- (12) Do you approve our church government and polity?
- (13) Will you support and maintain them?
- (14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
- (15) Will you visit from house to house?
- (16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, by both precept and example?
- (17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?
- (18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?

(19) Will you observe the following directions?

- (a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend

any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
(b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules; but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

After this the formal vote on admitting the candidates to membership shall be taken. Then shall the bishop say the following or some other prayer of consecration:

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

O God, our heavenly Father, who didst manifest thy love in sending thine only-begotten Son into the world that all might have life through him; pour out thy Spirit upon thy Church, that it may fulfill thy command to preach the gospel to every creature. Send forth, we beseech thee, laborers into thy harvest; fill them with the Holy Spirit, and with faith; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the nations shall be gathered into thy Kingdom; through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

¶ 1925. THE ORDER FOR THE CONSECRATION OF DEACONESSSES

When the time appointed is come, a sermon or address may be given declaring what is the office and duty of a deaconess; after which one shall present those to be consecrated deaconesses, saying:

I present unto you these persons to be consecrated deaconesses.

Then shall the consecrator say to those present:

Dearly beloved, *these are they* whom we purpose this day to consecrate *deaconesses* in the Church of God. After inquiry and examination we discover that *they* have met the stated requirements of the Church, and believe *them* to be worthy and proper *persons* for this office.

Then shall the Scripture be read:

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the

throne of his glory and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall the consecrator say to those to be deaconesses:

Dearly beloved, we rejoice that in the providence of God you have been led by the Holy Spirit to devote *yourselves* to Christlike service under the direction of the Church of Christ. You are to give *yourselves* to the service of the Lord, going about doing good. You are come as your Master to lead the sick and sinning world to the Saviour. Such service lays upon you solemn responsibility.

Do you believe that you are led of God to engage in this work and to assume the duties of this office?

I do.

Do you in the presence of God and of this congregation promise faithfully to perform the duties of a deaconess in the Church of God?

I do.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and in such other devotions as will help you to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

I will.

Will you be guided by the will and direction of those whom the Church may place over you in the doing of your work?

I will.

Then shall those to be consecrated kneel for a brief season of silent prayer, after which shall be said:

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst call Phoebe and Dorcas into the service of thy Church; look upon *these* thy *servants* who are now to be set apart to the office of deaconess. Give to *them*, we pray thee, such understanding of thy holy gospel, such firmness of Christian purpose, such diligence in service, and such beauty of life in Christ, that *they* may be to all whom *they* teach or serve a worthy revelation of the meaning and power of the Christian life. May *they* so order *their* time and nourish *their* minds and hearts that *they* may constantly grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may steadily increase in power to lead others unto him.

Grant that *they* may have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of thy will in the holy task to which thou hast called *them*; and grant *them* thy Holy Spirit, that *they* may worthily discharge the work committed to *them*, to the blessing of mankind and to the praise of Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Then the consecrator, laying his hands upon the head of every one severally, shall say:

I admit thee to the office of deaconess in the Church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Then may a hymn be sung, the deaconesses and the people standing; after which the people shall be dismissed with this blessing:

May Christ dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do

exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

¶ 1926. THE ORDER FOR THE CONSECRATION OF DIRECTORS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It is recommended that this order be used at the time of the report of the Conference Board of Education, or other suitable time approved by the program committee of the Annual Conference, but that it not be used in connection with the conference ordination service.

At the time appointed, the bishop shall declare the office and duty of a director of Christian education, as follows:

Dearly beloved, we rejoice that there is a vocation within the Church for those persons who have been called to serve Christ in the field of Christian education. It is the office of a director of Christian education to assist the pastor in guiding the work of Christian education in the local church. It is the duty of a director of Christian education, through personal endeavor and through the service of others, to lead the people to Christ, to inform them of the way of Christ, and to guide their growing understanding of how to live as Christians.

Then the chairman of the Conference Board of Education shall present those to be consecrated, saying:

I present unto you these persons, having been duly certified, to be consecrated directors of Christian education: [names].

Their names having been read aloud, the bishop shall say to those to be consecrated:

Dearly beloved, we rejoice that you have purposed in your hearts to devote yourselves to this task. You are to be among those who serve and teach. Such a vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have done alone with God in consecrating yourselves to this service, we now ask you to declare publicly in the presence of this congregation.

Do you believe in your heart that you have been led by the Spirit of God to engage in Christian education and to assume its responsibilities?

I do so believe.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in other studies necessary to the development of a program of Christian education?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you strive so to live that the power of God may be manifest in your life, enabling you through a program of Christian education to bring others to an awareness of the presence of God and to become disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ?

I will, by God's grace.

Will you maintain and set forward, as much as lieth in you, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among those who shall be committed to your charge?

I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Will you be loyal to the Church and accept the authority of those to whom the Church has committed the direction of your work?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Then those being consecrated shall kneel while the bishop says the prayer of consecration:

O eternal God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; look upon *these thy servants* whom we this day consecrate *directors* of Christian education. Grant that *they* may have strength of body, mind, and soul for the fulfillment of thy will, that *they* may worthily discharge the work committed to *them*, to the blessing of mankind and the glory of Christ our Saviour. Amen.

¶ 1927. AN ORDER FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF MISSIONARIES AND DEACONESSSES

PRELUDE The people in devout meditation.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN The people standing. If there be no processional, let the first hymn follow the Call to Worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

People: With him is the fountain of life: in his light shall we see light.

Minister: Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

People: From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. Amen.

Here let the people be seated.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, the radiance of faithful souls, who didst bring the nations to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising; fill, we beseech thee, the world with thy glory, and show thyself unto all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT *Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who through thy Son Jesus Christ hast given commandment unto thy people to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature; grant us a ready will to obey thy word; and as we have entered into the labors of other men, help us to serve thee, that others may enter into our labors, and that we with them, and they with us, may attain unto everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.

People: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister: Praise ye the Lord.

People: The Lord's name be praised.

ANTHEM

RESPONSIVE READING *"The Christian Mission"; of which let the paragraphs be read in turn by the minister, those to be*

commissioned, and the people. Let all stand and remain standing for the Gloria Patri.

Hear, all ye nations of the earth, the gospel of the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Jesus came, saying: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

He came forth and saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, for they were as sheep not having a shepherd; and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God, and them that had need of healing he cured.

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?

The gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations.

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are

few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

Then said I, Here am I; send me.

And the King shall say, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully, saith the LORD.

Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

For all things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

GLORIA PATRI

THE LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT *Mark 8:13-15;*
Matthew 10:38-42.

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY *The dedication of gifts and tithes. An offertory sentence may be said or sung.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION

With thee, our Master and our Lord,
We greet this wondrous day;
The gates swing open at thy word,
The paths stretch far away.
The way we take is known to thee,
Thy footprints there we trace;
Oh, grant us now that we may see
The radiance of thy face.

We little bring, our gift is small,
Yet all we are is thine.

Ourselves we give, our life, our all;
Thy life in ours enshrine.
Oh, lead us forth, with ardor bright
Enkindled from above;
O Christ, reveal in heaven's own light
The challenge of thy love.

O living Lord! with courage bless
This loyal company,
They go to seek the comfortless,
To find the lost for thee.
Within their hearts they bear thy word,
They sing with joy thy praise,
Be ever near them, Jesus, Lord,
Be with them all the days.

Together still! E'en though we part,
Our life is one in prayer:
Our hearts are ever where thou art,
And thou art everywhere.
About the world thy servants stand;
With them one song we sing,
Thy conquering love in every land,
Thy triumph, Christ, our King! Amen.

THE ADDRESS

THE PRESENTATION OF THE MISSIONARIES AND DEACONESSES TO BE COMMISSIONED

THE COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Those to be commissioned shall take their places at the chancel, facing the bishop, who shall say to them:

Hear the words of our Master:
As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you.
Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Your church, in its endeavor to carry out this Great Commission, has declared, "The supreme aim of missions is to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all people in all lands as their divine Saviour, to persuade them to become his disciples, and to gather these disciples into Christian churches; to enlist them in the building of the Kingdom of God; to co-operate with these churches, to promote world Christian fellowship; and to bring to bear on all human life the spirit and principles of Christ."

Dearly beloved, we rejoice that you have purposed in your *hearts* to devote your *lives* to this task. Your labors may take you to the mountains and to the plains, to isolated villages and teeming cities of this country, and to lands across the sea. You are to be among men as *those* who *serve*—teaching, preaching, and healing, ever testifying within the varied activities of our common life to the infinite love of God, shed abroad in Christ Jesus. Such a vocation confers a great privilege; it also lays upon you a solemn responsibility. What you have done alone with God in consecrating your *lives* to this service, we now ask you to do formally and publicly in the presence of this congregation.

Do you believe in your heart that you have been led by the Spirit of God to engage in this work and to assume its responsibilities?

I do so believe.

Will you endeavor, as much as lieth in you, to perform faithfully the duties of *missionaries and deaconesses* in the Church of Christ?

I will endeavor so to do.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of God and his Kingdom?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Will you strive so to live that the power of God may be manifest in your life, enabling you to convey the blessed sense of God's presence to those you would serve?

I will, by God's grace.

Will you be loyal to the Church, and accept the author-

ity of those to whom the Church has committed the direction of your work?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall all bow for a brief period of silent prayer, after which the bishop shall say:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies; graciously behold *these thy servants* now to be commissioned as *deaconesses and missionaries* of thy Church. Endue *them* with thy Holy Spirit; enrich *them* with thy heavenly grace; and strengthen *them* for the task which lie ahead, that in all *their* works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, *they* may glorify thy holy name, and advance thy blessed Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the bishop, taking the right hand of each one, and repeating the name, shall say:

N., I commission you to take the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

To each deaconess the bishop shall say:

N., I commission you a deaconess to take the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ into all the world, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When all have been commissioned, the bishop shall turn to the missionaries and deaconesses in the congregation. They shall rise and the bishop, addressing them, shall say:

Beloved in the Lord, once you stood where *these* now stand, answering the call of God in your hearts. Obedient to this divine imperative, you have labored at home and abroad, ministering to the needs of men and bringing to them words of life. We are justly proud of your work and are continually thankful for the fullness of your devotion.

These younger workers will look to you for help and guidance as *they* go forth to serve with you. I commend *them* to your love and care.

Those who have just been commissioned shall then turn to face these missionaries and deaconesses, who, addressing them, shall say:

We welcome you into our fellowship, and into the

joyous service of Christ and his Kingdom. Your peace, joy, and welfare are now our own, and we pledge to you through the days ahead our unfailing support.

With you we renew our dedication to God and to the Church we delight to serve.

Now the God of peace make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall all the people stand, and the bishop, addressing them, shall say:

Members of this congregation, I commend to you *these men and women* whom we this day have commissioned to carry into all the world the sacred and imperishable message of eternal salvation.

In this holy moment we too are called to a renewed consecration of our lives to Christ and his Kingdom. As *these*, our fellow workers, go forth upon their mission, let us assure *them* that we are with *them* in spirit and are supporting *them* by word and gift and deed.

Then all the people, addressing those who have just been commissioned, shall say:

We rejoice to recognize you as *missionaries and deaconesses* of our church, and we thank God that you have dedicated your *lives* to his service throughout all the world.

We shall follow you with our prayers; we shall support your work with our gifts; and together we shall strive to minister to the needs of our fellow men and to bring to them the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Then shall all the people and the newly commissioned missionaries and deaconesses join in saying:

We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

United we pray: Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And to this end we dedicate ourselves; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER *Here let the people be seated and with heads bowed offer their personal intercessions for those who have just been commissioned and for the missionary enterprise.*

CLOSING PRAYER *The Bishop.*

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¶ 1928. AN ORDER FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CHURCH-SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS

This order may be used as a part of an order of worship when the work of Christian education is the theme of the day. After the sermon the minister may call the officers and teachers of the church school to stand before the chancel or altar.

The minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, we have here met in the presence of God that we may recognize his call, received and acknowledged by these of our fellowship, to the work of teaching and directing in our church school. As they come in a spirit of devotion to offer themselves to God for this service, it is our obligation to support them by our loyalty and prayers, seeking with them and for them the consecration which is from on high, that they may be en-

abled to discharge this responsible calling with reverence and faithfulness and to the glory of God.

Then the chairman of the Commission on Education or the minister may read the names of the officers and teachers of the church school. The officers and teachers shall then confess their faith in Christ, responding to the minister as follows:

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

By grace are we saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

One is our Master, even Christ.

Ye are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

I beseech you therefore, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

The love of Christ constraineth us.

Study to show yourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Who is sufficient for these things? Without him we can do nothing.

God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye may abound to every good work.

Faithful is he who calleth us, who also will do it.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Romans 12:1-8 read responsively may be used alternatively.

Here let the people be seated and bow in prayer while the officers and teachers kneel at the altar. Then shall the minister say:

Ye are not your own; ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Neglect not the gift that is in you. Give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.

Then shall the minister and the officers and teachers unite in prayer.

Eternal and everliving Father, who dost call us to thy service, and dost promise grace and strength for the fulfilling of thy will; look with favor upon us, as we dedicate ourselves to the task of working in this school. Grant that we may grow in the knowledge and love of thy word, that we may minister to the growing life of thy Church, and to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then may follow a short extempore prayer of dedication by the minister. Afterward a suitable hymn may be sung, which may be followed by the benediction.

¶ 1929. AN ORDER FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CHORISTERS

At an appointed time the choir director, with his choristers properly robed, shall stand before the minister, who shall say:

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.

Then the choir director shall say:

I present these persons to be recognized as choristers in this church.

Then shall the minister say:

Are you convinced that these persons by their integrity of life, good behavior, and knowledge of music will exercise this office to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church?

Then shall the choir director say:

I have inquired of them and have also examined them and commend them for this service in the Church.

Then the minister, addressing the persons who are seeking admission as choristers, shall question them as follows:

Do you desire to become a member of this choir?

I do.

Do you promise obedience to its rules and officers?

I do.

Will you endeavor always to be reverent in the house of God?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you seek to hold your life to the high level that is in accordance with this high office?

I will, the Lord being my helper.

Then shall the choir director and candidates kneel, and the minister, calling each by name, shall say:

N., I admit thee into the choir of this church. What thou singest with thy mouth, believe in thy heart; what thou believest in thy heart, practice in thy life. And may our heavenly Father give thee grace to sing his praise and live to his glory, both in this world and in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Here let all the people unite in prayer.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then may the minister say:

The Lord bless you, and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

¶ 1930. AN ORDER FOR THE ORGANIZING OF A CHURCH

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE *The district superintendent (or pastor authorized by him).*

Dearly beloved, we are met on this occasion to establish a new congregation of The Methodist Church, which is a part of the body of Christ; and to that end we dedicate ourselves and this hour.

The Church is of God, and will be preserved to the end of time, for the promotion of his worship and the due administration of his word and ordinances, the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline, the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world. All, of every age and station, stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

HYMN 379 *"I love thy kingdom, Lord," the people standing.*

THE LESSON FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Behold, I will gather them out of all countries; and I will bring them again unto this place: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not de-

part from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart, and with my whole soul.

LITANY

For the revelation of thy word to humankind as it has come through patriarchs, prophets, and sages,

We praise thy name, O Lord.

For salvation from sin, for redeeming love, and for all the ministry of the gospel as it has blessed the seeking souls of men,

We praise thy name, O Lord.

For the glorious hope of immortality, and the life of eternal fellowship,

We praise thy name, O Lord.

For the high and holy privilege of knowing our lives redeemed, of following the way and spirit of Jesus Christ, and of accepting responsibility in the Church of Christ,

We praise thy name, O Lord.

For the purpose of establishing this church, and in the full hope that it will render a complete ministry of redemption, education, worship, fellowship, and service,

We pledge ourselves, O God, to thee this day. Amen.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATION *The district superintendent shall give opportunity for those in attendance to present themselves for membership by certificates of transfer and on profession of faith and, when he is satisfied as to the genuineness of their faith and purpose, shall receive those who present themselves, using the regular forms in the Ritual. After this he shall complete the organization of the church as prescribed in the Discipline.*

DECLARATION OF ORGANIZATION

The district superintendent shall say:

By what name shall this church henceforth be known?

To which the pastor, chairman of the Official Board, or other official shall answer:

It shall be called the N.— Methodist Church.

Then shall the district superintendent say:

In accordance with the laws and the Discipline of The Methodist Church, I hereby declare that the N.— Methodist Church is duly constituted and organized for the glory of God, the proclamation of the gospel, and the service of humanity.

THE LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

HYMN 416 *"Blest be the tie that binds."*

THE ADDRESS

HYMN 381 *"The Church's one foundation," the people standing.*

BENEDICTION

¶ 1931. AN ORDER FOR THE BREAKING OF
GROUND FOR A CHURCH

At the time appointed let the congregation assemble at the site set apart for the new church building.

HYMN 18 *"For the beauty of the earth," or other suitable hymn, the people standing.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

People: Praise waiteth for thee, O God, and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Amen.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

O Lord God, almighty and most merciful, whom the heaven, even the heaven of heavens, cannot contain, much less temples built with hands, but who also dwellest with men, and delightest thyself in the fellowship of thy people; cleanse our hearts, we beseech thee, from all evil thought and desire, and vouchsafe thy divine presence and blessing, both that those things may please thee which we do at this present, and also that we may at length obtain thy favor with life everlasting in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT *Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who art ever exalted yet always nigh; grant that we may worthily offer unto thee, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, this ground upon which we stand, to be made holy with sacred aspiration and divine purpose, as a place upon which to build a temple and a sanctuary where thy glory shall be manifest among us, and where all people shall come to call upon thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER *The Minister.*

O eternal God, our heavenly Father, who hast committed to us the work of building a temple to thy blessed name; grant that when thy gospel is preached in this place, it may be in demonstration of thy Spirit and with

power; and that when thy holy Sacraments are here administered, those spiritual graces which the outward signs do but represent may flow into the hearts of thy people. Here let men worship thee in spirit and in truth. Here, when they come to offer their gifts upon thine altar, let them consider thy Son, who though he was rich for their sakes became poor, that they through his poverty might become rich. Let the fullness of thy love fill all who shall seek thy presence in this place. Upon the church to be builded here let thy Spirit, O God, descend; and within this sanctuary let thy glory dwell; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

GLORIA PATRI

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together, and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Here let the minister offer an extempore prayer, which may be followed by an address.

DECLARATION *The Minister*

To the glory of God, in the presence of this congregation, I now request that ground be broken for N.—Methodist Church. Upon you as members of this congregation rests the responsibility and privilege to cause a church to rise here which shall be devoted to the honor

and worship of Almighty God our Father, and to the glory of his blessed Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

THE BREAKING OF GROUND *Here let those selected come forward; and as each turns a spadeful of earth, let him repeat one of the following sentences, to which the people shall respond.*

That a church may rise here in which the ancient gospel of her Lord shall be proclaimed,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where little children shall learn to love God and grow in the beauty of Christian grace and character,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where through the years countless youth shall come to worship, pause to pray, and rise to serve,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where the weary and heavy laden shall find that inner peace which the world can neither give nor take away,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where the Word of God shall be so read and preached that it shall become the Living Word, and the Sacraments so administered that all life shall become a sacrament,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where moments of meditation and hours of worship shall be touched with life-giving reality,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where those who seek first the kingdom of God shall dedicate themselves to the unfinished tasks of evangelizing the whole of life,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where multitudes shall be refreshed in spirit, relieved from pain, released from bondage, redeemed from sin,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where the unsearchable riches of Christ shall bear fruit in making our human loves constant, our homes Christlike, and our families creative centers of Christian influence,

We break this ground today.

That a church may rise here where all who bow in sorrow shall rise in faith in him in whom to believe is life eternal,

We break this ground today.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER *Here let the people bow.*

Almighty and everlasting God, in communion with the saints in all the ages, and remembering the heritage that has been given us, we offer thee our praise and thanksgiving.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us to accept the privilege and responsibility of this thy fellowship of faith; here may we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

So may we fulfill the law of love.

Enable us, by thy grace, to dedicate ourselves this day to the great task which thou dost lay upon our hearts and consciences.

In all that we do, be thou, O Lord, our strength and help.

Reveal to us the beauty of thy perfect law, the joy of our living Lord, so that with glad hearts we may move forward in paths of high devotion and great achievement.

Be thou, O Lord, our guide and help for evermore. Amen.

BENEDICTION

¶ 1932. AN ORDER FOR THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF A CHURCH

At the time appointed the hymn "The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord" may be sung, all the people standing, after which the minister shall say:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

Dearly beloved, we are assembled to lay the cornerstone of a new house for the worship of the God of our fathers. Let us not doubt that he will favorably approve our godly purpose, and let us now devoutly invoke his blessing on this our undertaking.

Then shall the minister offer an extempore prayer.

Then the following lesson from the Old Testament may be read responsively by the minister and the people, the people standing:

The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Then may the Gloria Patri be said or sung:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Then shall be read the lesson from the New Testament, the people being seated:

For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Here may follow a prayer, offering, anthem, address, and hymn.

Then, standing at the side of the cornerstone, the minister may read the following scripture sentences:

The LORD hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it. Fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation.

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation.

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Then shall the minister offer the prayer of consecration:

Almighty God, the Rock of Ages; on thee we build all our hopes for this life and that which is to come. Other foundation we would not seek to lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ; and we are to build upon this

cornerstone a holy temple to the living God. Accept the act by which we lay this cornerstone. Bless those whose offerings enable us to build this house of worship. Graciously guard and direct those who labor in erecting it, shielding them from accident and peril. May the walls of this building rise in security and in beauty; and may the hearts of these thy people be fitly joined together into a living temple, builded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. Amen.

Then may the minister and the people recite the Litany for the Laying of a Cornerstone:

To the glory of God our Father, to the service of our dear Master and his Church, and to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit,

We lay the cornerstone of this church.

For a building of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone, the pillar and ground of the truth,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a building that shall stand as a symbol of the Church Universal, the cornerstone of which is truth, the creed of which is love, and its towers eternal hope,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church that shall exalt not a religion of creed or of authority, but a religion of saving grace, of personal experience, and of spiritual power,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church that shall exalt the ministry of the open Bible, with its faithful record of human life, its unfolding of the redeeming grace of God through Jesus Christ, its message of warning, inspiration, comfort, and hope,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church that shall teach and incarnate the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church that shall fulfill a ministry of social service and be a blessing unto men,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church that shall be a renewing and cleansing power in the community, and that loves every other communion that exalts Christ in the service of man,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church with an open door for all people, rich or poor, homeless or desolate, who need the help of God through us,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church that shall gather the children in its arms and hold them close to Christ, that they may grow up in the Church and never be lost from the fold,

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church which stands for the sacramental truth: "It is more blessed to give than to receive,"

We lay this cornerstone.

For a church which takes hold on two worlds, and stands for the unseen and eternal, and which offers to men the abundant life which now is and which is to come,

We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God.

In loving memory of those who have gone from us, whose hearts and hands have served this church; with gratitude for all whose faith and consecrated gifts make this house possible, for all who may share this spiritual adventure; and with hope for all who shall worship in this house in years to come,

We lay this cornerstone in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages, world without end. Amen.

Then shall the minister, standing by the stone, exhibit to the people a box to be placed in the stone. It may contain such articles as a Bible, The Methodist Hymnal, the latest Discipline, church periodicals, names of the pastor, Official Board, the building committee of the church, with such other documents as may be desired. The minister may read the list of articles so deposited in the box. Then with the aid of the builder, the minister shall lay the stone in its place.

Then shall the people sing the following hymn:

**On this stone now laid with prayer
Let thy church rise, strong and fair;
Ever, Lord, thy name be known,
Where we lay this cornerstone.**

**May thy Spirit here give rest
To the heart by sin oppressed,
And the seeds of truth be sown,
Where we lay this cornerstone.**

**Open wide, O God, thy door
For the outcast and the poor;
May they know this house their own,
Where we lay this cornerstone.**

**By wise master builders squared,
Here be living stones prepared
For the temple near thy throne,
Jesus Christ its Cornerstone.**

Then shall the minister say:

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and evermore. **Amen.**

This order may be abridged according to the needs of the occasion.

¶ 1933. AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

Let the service of worship begin at the time appointed. Let the people kneel or bow in silent prayer upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

HYMN *The people standing.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Serve the Lord with gladness.

People: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

Minister: O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

People: He is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Amen

Here let the people be seated.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

O God, eternal and ever blessed, who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary; receive us graciously as we come into thy house, and grant, we entreat thee, that peace and prosperity may be found within its walls, that the glory of God may be the light thereof, and that we may be satisfied with the goodness of thy house; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR DEDICATION DAY *Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM

CANTICLE OF THE CHURCH *To be said responsively by the minister and the people. Here let the people stand and remain standing until after the Affirmation of Faith.*

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.

But the Lord shall rise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

And the nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The abundance of the sea shall be turned unto thee; the wealth of the nations shall come unto thee.

Thy gates shall stand always open; they shall not be shut day nor night,

That men may bring unto thee the wealth of the nations, and their kings led with them.

For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, it shall be utterly wasted.

Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders.

But thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates thou shalt call Praise.

The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee.

But the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself.

For the LORD shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

GLORIA PATRI

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The minister and the people.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; for thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

PRAYER

HYMN

THE SERMON *Which may be followed by prayer.*

THE DEDICATION OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *The people standing.*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Here let the people be seated.

THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Some person authorized shall say to the officiating minister:

We present this building to be dedicated to the glory of God and the service of men.

Then shall the minister say:

By what name shall this church henceforth be known?

To which shall be answered:

It shall be called the N.—— Methodist Church.

Then shall the minister say to all the people:

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God put it into the hearts of his people to build this house to the glory of his name. I now accept this building to be known as N. Methodist Church, to dedicate it, and to set it apart for the worship of Almighty God and the service of all men. Let us therefore, as we are assembled, solemnly dedicate this place to its proper and sacred uses.

Then, all standing, the minister shall say, the people responding:

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by his grace;
To the honor of his Son, who loved us and gave himself for us;
To the praise of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us;

We dedicate this house.

For the worship of God in prayer and praise;
For the preaching of the everlasting gospel;
For the celebration of the holy Sacraments;

We dedicate this house.

For the comfort of all who mourn;
For strength to those who are tempted;

For light to those who seek the way;

We dedicate this house.

For the hallowing of family life;
For teaching and guiding the young;
For the perfecting of the saints;

We dedicate this house.

For the conversion of sinners;
For the promotion of righteousness;
For the extension of the Kingdom of God;

We dedicate this house.

In the unity of the faith;
In the bond of Christian brotherhood;
In charity and good will to all;

We dedicate this house.

In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve this church;

In loving remembrance of those who have finished their course;

In the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

We dedicate this house.

Then shall the minister and people together say:

We now, the people of this church and congregation, compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of our fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, do dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister say:

Accept, O God our Father, this service at our hands, and bless it to the end that this congregation of faithful people may make manifest the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of truth, and so may this house be the place where thine honor dwelleth and the whole earth be filled with thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE SANCTUS *To be sung or said responsively by the minister and the people.*

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high! Amen.

PRAYER *Here the minister may offer an extempore prayer or one or more of the following prayers:*

O eternal God, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; graciously accept the dedication of this house to thy honor and glory. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, that all who here share in the Sacraments, the ministry of the Word, and the fellowship of praise and prayer may know that God is in this place, may hear thy voice within their hearts, and may go forth to extend to the uttermost bounds of life the Lord Christ's Kingdom. **Amen.**

Now therefore, O Lord, let thine eyes be open toward this house day and night; and let thine ears be ready toward the prayers of thy children, which they shall make unto thee in this place. And whensoever thy servants shall make to thee their petitions, do thou hear them, and when thou hearest, forgive. Grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that here and elsewhere thy ministers may be clothed with righteousness, and thy saints rejoice in thy salvation. And may we all, with thy people everywhere, grow up into a holy temple in the Lord, and be at last received into the glorious temple above, the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. And to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be glory and praise, world without end. **Amen.**

HYMN

SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¶ 1934. AN ORDER FOR THE OPENING OF A CHURCH FOR WORSHIP

According to the Discipline of The Methodist Church a church cannot be dedicated until it is free of debt. This is not a service of dedication. It is an opening of a church for worship with the expectancy that the congregation of faithful people will make every sacrifice to remove all encumbrance from the House of God.

Let the service of worship begin at the time appointed. Let the people kneel or bow in silent prayer upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

HYMN *The people standing.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: **Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.**

Minister: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

People: **Praise waiteth for thee, O God, and unto thee shall the vow be performed. Amen.**

Here let the people be seated and bow in prayer.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

O Lord God, almighty and most merciful, whom the heaven, even the heaven of heavens, cannot contain, much less temples built with hands, but who also dwellest with men, and delightest thyself in the fellowship of thy people; cleanse our hearts, we beseech thee, from all evil thought and desire, and vouchsafe thy divine presence and blessing, both that those things may please thee which we do at this present, and also that we may at length obtain thy favor with life everlasting in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

RESPONSIVE PSALM Here let the people stand and remain standing until after the Gloria Patri.

The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors.

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.

GLORIA PATRI

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

DECLARATION The Minister.

In the name of God and in the presence of this congregation I now declare this church to be open for the worship of God and the service of men. May it be a house of prayer for all people. Upon you as a congregation there rests the solemn responsibility to see to it that all liability of a financial character resting upon this property be speedily lifted so that this church may be dedicated to God in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us join in the act of consecration to God and his Church.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER Here let the people bow.

Almighty and everlasting God, in communion with the saints in all the ages, and remembering the heritage that has been given us, we offer thee our praise and thanksgiving.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us to accept the privilege and responsibility of this thy fellowship of faith; here may we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

So may we fulfill the law of love.

Enable us, by thy grace, to dedicate ourselves this day to the great task which thou dost lay upon our hearts and consciences.

In all that we do, be thou, O Lord, our strength and help.

Reveal to us the beauty of thy perfect law, the joy of our living Lord, so that with glad hearts we may move forward in paths of high devotion and great achievement.

Be thou, O Lord, our guide and help for evermore. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *The minister.*

Most glorious God, accept through thy beloved Son our thanksgivings for thine unspeakable love and goodness. Thou art the Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, full of compassion, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. We thank thee that thou hast founded thy Church upon the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. We thank thee that thou hast committed to thy ministers the word of reconciliation. Continue thy lovingkindness unto us, that we may rejoice and be glad in thee all our days. Guide us by thy counsel, and afterward receive us to thy glory; where, with all the blessed host of heaven, we may behold, adore, and perfectly and joyfully praise thee, our most glorious creator, redeemer, and sanctifier, for ever and ever. **Amen.**⁵

ANTHEM

OFFERTORY *The dedication of gifts and tithes. An offertory sentence may be said or sung.*

HYMN

THE SERMON *Which may be followed by prayer.*

AN INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

HYMN or DOXOLOGY *The people standing.*

SILENT PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¶ 1935. AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF AN ORGAN

DOXOLOGY *The people standing.*

⁵ From *The Book of Common Worship* (revised, 1932), by permission of the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Surely the Lord is in this place.

People: **This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.**

Minister: Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.

People: **O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. Amen.**

Here let the people be seated.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast made the heart of man to respond to the touch of thy Spirit as a harp to the hand of a master; give to us the vision of thy glory as we worship thee. We laud thee, we bless thee, we give thanks unto thy great name for thy lovingkindness and thy truth. Unto thee we bring the obedience of our thanksgiving and the praise of our devotion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT *Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ACT OF PRESENTATION *The people standing. The organ may be presented for dedication by one of the trustees, or someone designated for that purpose, in some such words as:*

We present this organ for dedication, [the gift of N. for the glory of God, and in loving memory of N.]

ACT OF DEDICATION *To be said responsively by the minister and the people.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this organ to the praise of Almighty God.

Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with psaltery and harp.

We dedicate this organ to the cultivation of a high art: to the interpretation of the message of the masters of music, to an appreciation of the great doxologies of the Church, and to the development of the language of praise which belongeth both to earth and to heaven.

Praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

We dedicate this organ to the wedding march, to thanksgiving on festal occasions, and to such inspiration in the service of song that all people may praise the Lord.

O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD all the earth, in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

We dedicate this organ to the healing of life's discords, and the revealing of the hidden soul of harmony; to the lifting of the depressed and the comforting of the sorrowing; to the humbling of the heart before the eternal mysteries, and the lifting of the soul to abiding beauty and joy, by the gospel of infinite love and good will.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Our God and Father, whom the generations have worshiped with concord of sweet sound; be pleased to accept this organ as a song of praise unto thee. **Amen.**

Grant that its music, with accompanying song, may come as a blessed benediction upon all who worship here. **Amen.**

May this organ become undying music in the world as its notes of cheer, comfort, communion, and courage are modulated into human lives for daily task and noble service. **Amen.**

To all organists who shall sound its notes, and to all worshipers who shall be lifted Godward by its voice, may there come at times the sweep of hallelujahs from the throne of the redeemed, until earth below shall be attuned to heaven above, singing hallelujah to him who reigneth, Lord of hosts, the King of kings. Hallelujah! **Amen.**

Here may be sung a suitable hymn or anthem, after which may follow a recital or sermon. An offering may then be received, followed by the singing of a hymn.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¶ 1936. AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH-SCHOOL BUILDING OR PARISH HOUSE

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

HYMN *The people standing.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.

Minister: Establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth, and for evermore, Amen.

Here let the people be seated.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, whose lovingkindness never faileth, who rulest both in heaven and in earth, keeping mercy for thy people who walk before the presence of thy glory; graciously vouchsafe thy presence as we dedicate

this building to thy service; mercifully illumine and brighten it with thine own glory, and pour down thy blessing upon it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

The heart of him that hath understanding asketh knowledge.

In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand.

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. That we may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth.

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness

instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

ANTHEM or HYMN

THE ADDRESS

OFFERTORY *Followed by an offertory response, which may be the Doxology.*

ACT OF PRESENTATION *Here let the Commission on Education stand up before the people, and let the chairman of the commission say to the minister:*

We present unto you this building to be dedicated to the glory of Almighty God and to the purposes of worship, fellowship, study, and service.

ACT OF DEDICATION *Here let the people stand and unite in the responses to the words of the minister.*

Dearly beloved, it is right and proper that buildings erected for such service in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. And, as the dedication of this building is vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labors it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God: our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labors and business, that they may be according to God's holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of his name and the advancement of his Kingdom.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building to the worship of God.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

We dedicate this building to the purpose of Christian education: to the work of the church school, to the study of the Scriptures, and to the development of Christian character.

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning. Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

We dedicate this building to the broadening of mental horizons and the deepening of knowledge, that young and old may be awakened and informed.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

We dedicate this building to Christian fellowship and to recreation of mind and body.

Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

We dedicate this building to those tasks and aims in which the Christian serves his place and time: to the causes of missions, of Christian citizenship, and the broad field of social relations.

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The minister and the people:

We dedicate ourselves anew to that service of our fellow men wherein can best be performed our true service of God, in obedience to the spirit of the Master when he said: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose eyes are ever toward the righteous, and whose ears are ever open unto their cry; graciously accept, we pray thee, this building which we now dedicate to thee, to thy service, and to thy glory, that in it love and wisdom may unite to bring joy and strength to those who gather here; and

we beseech thee, receive us thy servants who here dedicate ourselves anew to thee and to those offices of fellowship and good will in which thou art well pleased. Grant that those who come here may be cheered and quickened in mind and body, and that they may be stirred in spirit to serve thee wisely and steadfastly; and the praise shall be thine forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

¶ 1937. AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A HOSPITAL

SENTENCES OF PRAISE

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Minister: O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good.

People: **For his mercy endureth forever. Amen.**

Here let the people be seated.

DECLARATION *The minister.*

Dearly beloved, this building, which by the favor of God and the labor of man has been so far completed, is a symbol of that care for the sick and the suffering which

was supremely exemplified in the Lord Jesus, and which has always inspired those who follow him. We believe that the heavenly Father not only desires, but gladly accepts, the service of comfort and healing for which this building is to provide, and that he looks with favor upon the dedication of the building to himself and to the welfare of his children.

Let us therefore bring to him our praises for his guidance and aid in this undertaking, and our prayers on behalf of those who by their gifts or their service shall unite in fulfilling those purposes of love and skill for which this building is prepared.

HYMN OF PRAISE

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach the good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

And the disciples of John showed him of all these things. And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,

the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

HYMN OF DEDICATION

ADDRESS

OFFERTORY *Followed by an offertory response, which may be the Dowlology.*

RESPONSIVE READING *The minister and the people.*

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF PRESENTATION *Here let the Board of Trustees or the proper committee stand up before the people, and let the chairman of the board or some properly designated person say to the minister:*

We present, unto you this building, to be dedicated to the service of Almighty God in the relief of the sick and the suffering, [the gift of N. for the glory of God, and in loving memory of N.]

ACT OF DEDICATION *Here let the people stand and unite in the responses.*

Dearly beloved, it is right and proper that buildings erected for such service in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. And, as the dedication of this building is vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labors it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God: our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labors and business, that they may be according to God's holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of his name and the advancement of his Kingdom.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building as a hospital to the holy ministry of healing.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

We dedicate this building to Christian helpfulness.

Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, shall in no wise lose his reward.

We dedicate this building to sustaining power of the Holy Spirit in time of pain and suffering.

In all their afflictions he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them.

We dedicate this building to the skill and wisdom that bring relief and cure, and to the patient research that uncovers fresh resources with which to serve the public health.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom. Length of days is in her right hand. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her.

The minister and the people.

We dedicate ourselves anew to that service of our fellow men wherein can best be performed our true service of God, in obedience to the spirit of the Master when he said: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *The Minister.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose eyes are ever toward the righteous, and whose ears are ever open unto their cry; graciously accept, we pray thee, this building which we now dedicate to thee, to thy service, and to thy glory, that in it skill and tenderness may unite to bring health and cure to those who come for aid; and we beseech thee, receive us thy servants who here dedicate ourselves anew to thee and to those offices of love and good will in which thou art well pleased. Grant that those who come here in weakness may be made strong, that those who come in pain may find relief, and that those who come in sorrow may find joy and gladness; and the praise shall be thine forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O blessed Lord, who hast power of life and death, of health and sickness; give wisdom and gentleness to all thy ministering servants, to physicians and surgeons, nurses and watchers by the sick, that, always bearing thy presence with them, they may not only heal but bless, and shine as lamps of hope in the darkest hours of distress and fear; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O most merciful Father, we look to thee for thy grace on behalf of those who, coming here in grievous illness, may not return to earthly joys and sorrows, but pass from here into that life immortal where thou dost receive all who put their trust in thee. Thou hast said that as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are thy ways higher than our ways, but we know that all thy children are in thy tender and unfailing love which passeth our understanding, and we pray that the blessed ministry of thy Holy Spirit may sustain them, and that light eternal may shine upon them. **Amen.**

And now, O loving Father, we bow before thee, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, praying that thou wouldest grant us, according to the richest of thy glory, to be strengthened with might by thy Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with the fullness of God. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

¶ 1938. AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A SCHOOL, COLLEGE, OR UNIVERSITY BUILDING

PRELUDE *The people in devout meditation.*

SENTENCES OF PRAISE

Minister: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

People: They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. **Amen.**

DECLARATION *The minister.*

Dearly beloved, this building, which by the favor of God and the labor of man has been so far completed, embodies the obligation of each generation to impart its

treasures of wisdom and knowledge to the generation following. For the fulfillment of this task we need, not only the best that men can do, but above all the blessing of Almighty God. Let us therefore bring to him our praises for his aid in this undertaking, and our prayers on behalf of those who by their gifts of their service shall unite in fulfilling the purpose for which this building is prepared.

HYMN OF PRAISE

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is everyone that retaineth her. The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: so shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way, safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house

upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

HYMN OF DEDICATION

THE ADDRESS

OFFERTORY *Followed by an offertory response, which may be the Doxology.*

RESPONSIVE READING

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars.

Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

O ye simple, understand wisdom: and ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF PRESENTATION *Then let the Board of Trustees or the proper committee stand up before the people, and let one of them say unto the minister:*

We present unto you this building to be dedicated to the service of Almighty God in the enlightenment of his children, [the gift of N. for the glory of God, and in loving memory of N.]

ACT OF DEDICATION *The minister, the people uniting in the responses.*

Dearly beloved, it is right and proper that buildings erected for such service in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ should be formally and devoutly set apart for their special uses. For such a dedication we are now assembled. And, as the dedication of this building is vain without the solemn consecration of those whose gifts and labors it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God: our souls, that they may be renewed after the image of Christ; our bodies, that they may be fit temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; and our labors and business, that they may be according to God's holy will, and that their fruit may tend to the glory of his name and the advancement of his kingdom.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this building to the holy ministry of education.

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

We dedicate this building to the spiritual enrichment of all who shall come here in pursuit of knowledge.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

We dedicate this building to the loyal service of those whose training and devotion have prepared them to lead students toward the truth.

The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.

We dedicate this building to that ministry of administration upon whose ability and fruitfulness depends the wise conduct of its affairs.

Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

The minister and the people.

We dedicate ourselves anew to that service of our fellow men wherein can best be performed our true service of God, in obedience to the spirit of the Master when he said: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose eyes are ever toward the righteous, and whose ears are ever open unto their cry; graciously accept, we pray thee, this building which we now dedicate to thee, to thy service, and to thy glory, that in it love and wisdom may unite to make plain the path of knowledge to those who gather here, and we beseech thee, receive us thy servants who here dedicate ourselves anew to thee and to those offices of fellowship and good will in which thou art well pleased. Grant that those who come here, whether as administrators, teachers, or students, may come with pure minds, upright purpose, and steadfast endeavor to learn and to do thy holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of our Fathers, we offer thee our heartfelt thanks for all thy servants, the parents and teachers, the benefactors and friends, by whose love and devotion we have come into our great inheritance of health, truth, and piety. Help us to guard faithfully this great boon, to profit by it, to augment it, and loyally to pass it on to the coming generation, that they through us may rise up to serve thee; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

BENEDICTION

¶ 1939. AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A HOME

SENTENCES OF PRAISE *The minister.*

Peace be to this house.

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast mercifully promised to hear the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; we beseech thee graciously to bless this home which we dedicate to thy honor and service, and make it the abode of purity and peace and truth. Watch over thy people in their going out and their coming in, and direct their footsteps ever in the way of thy commandments; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Here let the people unite with the minister in prayer.*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN

ACT OF DEDICATION *To be said responsively by the minister and the people.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we dedicate this home to the glory of God, committing to his loving care this house and all who dwell in it.

Have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, O LORD my God, which thy servant prayeth before thee today; that thine eyes may be opened toward this house night and day.

We dedicate this home to the deep affections of the family circle, and to all friendly hospitalities.

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, make you to increase and abound in love.

We dedicate this home to the courage, patience, and self-control which make life cheerful and serene.

Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

We dedicate this home to all beautiful things of heart and mind that lead the soul to wider vision and to higher aims.

**Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,
Whene'er is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts in glad surprise
To higher levels rise.**

We dedicate this home to happiness, to hopefulness, and to health, that it may ever be, to those whose home it is, a dear haven of peace and joy.

**Serene will be our days and bright,
And happy will our nature be,
When love is an unerring light,
And joy its own security.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, giver of life; we pray thee, make this home an abode of light and love. May all that is pure, tender, and true grow up under its shelter. May all that hinders godly union and concord be driven far from it. Make it the center of fresh, sweet, and holy influence. Give wisdom for life, and discretion in the guidance of affairs.

Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. And the praise shall be thine forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *The minister.*

The Lord bless us, and keep us: the Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

¶ 1940 AN ORDER FOR THE DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL

The service shall be conducted in the customary way, and, when the sermon is ended, an appropriate hymn shall be sung; after which the minister, accompanied by those who are to take part with him in the service, shall proceed to that part of the church where the act of dedication is to take place; and when the music ends, the people still standing, he shall say:

SENTENCES OF PRAISE

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

People: Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength.

Minister: Honor and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

Here let the people be seated.

INVOCATION *The minister.*

Let us pray.

Blessed and glorious Lord God Almighty, by whose power, wisdom, and love all things are sanctified, enlightened, and made perfect; be merciful unto us and bless us, we beseech thee, and cause thy face to shine upon us, that what we now do may please thee, and show forth the honor of thy name. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION AND DEDICATION *When that which is to be dedicated is a memorial, the minister shall then call upon the person appointed to perform the presentation of the memorial.*
We ask N. now to present the memorial.

The person making the presentation shall say:

In the name of [or, In memory of] N. we present to this church this memorial, to be dedicated to the glory and praise of God.

To which the properly designated official shall respond:

We accept this gift as a sacred trust, and shall guard it reverently, in honor of the faithful and devoted life to whose memory it is erected.

Then the minister shall pronounce the words of dedication:

In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, I dedicate this memorial to the glory of God, and in memory of his servant N.; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

DEDICATORY PRAYER *Let the people unite in the response.*

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

We see Jesus, because of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor.

Let us pray.

Almighty God our heavenly Father, without whom no words or works of ours have meaning, but who dost accept the gifts of our hands as the tokens of our devotion; grant thy blessing upon us as we dedicate this gift to thy glory. May this memorial which we now dedicate be an enduring witness before all thy people of the faithful service of thy servant. May our lives, being consecrated unto thy service, be joined with thy faithful ones into that building which groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

APPENDIX

I. JUDICIAL COUNCIL: RULES AND DIGESTS OF DECISIONS

II. ENABLING ACTS

III. QUADRENNIAL COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

IV. THE QUADRENNIAL PROGRAM

V. THE METHODIST SOCIAL CREED

VI. RESOLUTIONS

VII. COURSES OF STUDY FOR MINISTERIAL TRAINING

VIII. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

IX. THE DIRECTORY

X. GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

CHAPTER I

JUDICIAL COUNCIL: RULES AND DIGESTS OF DECISIONS

§2001. Rules of Practice and Procedure

1. *Officers.*—The officers of the Judicial Council shall be a president, a vice-president, and a secretary, to be elected quadrennially by a majority vote of the council; *provided* that no officer shall be elected to succeed himself in any particular office.

2. *Duties of President.*—The president shall perform all the duties incident to the office of a presiding officer of a judicial body, including the right to call the Judicial Council into session, as provided by the Discipline.

3. *Duties of the Vice-President.*—In case of absence or inability of the president, or at the request of the president, the vice-president shall preside over part or all of any session of the Judicial Council and perform all duties devolving upon the presiding officer while so presiding at such session.

4. *Duties of the Secretary.*—The secretary shall perform all duties incident to the position of secretary or clerk of a judicial body, and such other duties as shall be requested of him by the Judicial Council, among which shall be:

a) To keep a correct and complete record of all proceedings of the Judicial Council, including discussions, opinions, and all other actions taken by the council.

b) To keep the docket and perform the duties incident thereto, as hereinafter provided.

c) To furnish certified copy or copies of the record of the action of the Judicial Council, or any matter determined by it, to the party or parties interested and to such others as may have a right thereto.

d) To send to the secretary of the Council of Bishops certified copies of all decisions of the Judicial Council on questions of law, as provided in §909.

e) To notify the president of the Judicial Council immediately upon the filing of any matter submitted to the Judicial Council for determination, giving him a full and complete statement of the matter involved, together with such additional data as he may deem necessary.

5. *Docket.*—All matters of whatsoever kind and character

which may be brought before the Judicial Council for determination shall be filed in consecutive order by the secretary and shall be reported fully to the council. At the conclusion of any annual session or General Conference session of the Judicial Council, all papers, documents, and exhibits in all matters finally disposed of shall be sent by the secretary for safekeeping to the library of Drew University.

6. *Proceedings Preparatory for Hearing.*—(a) When any matter is appealed to the Judicial Council for determination, the document or documents and exhibits setting forth the same shall be filed with the secretary of the Judicial Council, and entered by him upon the docket of the council.

b) When a cause has been placed on the docket of the Judicial Council, the secretary thereof shall, within thirty (30) days from said date, furnish to each member of the council a copy of the document or documents and exhibits setting forth such appeal, or a careful and accurate digest thereof.

7. *Arguments.*—Interested parties may be heard in person or by others appearing for them, or both, but not more than two on the same side shall be heard except by consent of the council. Arguments shall be limited to one hour for each side; but upon request before the argument is begun, the council may allow such additional time as it may deem necessary for an adequate presentation of the issues involved.

8. *Interested Persons Not Parties May Be Heard.*—Any person or persons not parties to the record, but interested in a question of law pending before the Judicial Council may, with the consent of the council, be heard thereon before the council in session.

9. *Decisions.*—All decisions by the council shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by an opinion in which the reasons upon which it is based shall be stated with a citation of the pertinent authorities, and shall show whether or not all members of the council concur in the decision, giving the names of such members as do not concur. Any member of the council who dissents may give in writing the reasons for his dissent, which shall be entered of record.

10. *Approval and Signing of the Record.*—The record of all sessions of the Judicial Council shall be approved by the council in session and signed by the president and attested by the secretary.

11. *No Discussions Outside Council Meetings.*—The members of the Judicial Council will not permit discussion with them on matters pending before them, or that may be referred

to them for determination, save and except before the Judicial Council in session.

12. *Rules May Be Amended.*—These rules may be amended, repealed, or extended at any session of the Judicial Council by a majority vote thereof.

¶ 2002.

Digests of Decisions

[These digests reproduce the official summaries prepared by the Judicial Council except that references to Disciplinary paragraphs have been edited for the convenience of readers of the present edition. Each paragraph number, if the number or the legislation itself has been changed since the date of the decision, is followed by an editorial note enclosed in square brackets, like those enclosing this explanation. The note gives the date of the edition of the Discipline used in the decision and the corresponding paragraph number in the present edition, with an indication if there has been any significant amendment. Other bracketed notes bring terminology up to date. For complete texts of the decisions see the Journals of the General Conferences of 1952 (1-87) and 1956 (88-130)—EDITOR.]

1. Lay missionaries as defined in ¶ 974 [1939; now ¶ 1192 § 2, amended] are not eligible to vote in an Annual Conference for ministerial delegates to General Conference. April 26, 1940.

2. An appeal was taken from a bishop's rulings in an Annual Conference before Unification, which appeal passed to the Judicial Council under ¶ 1624 [1939; an interim enabling act]. This appeal involved a request for rulings asking interpretations of prior pension laws of the Methodist Episcopal Church. As the record did not show that any vested rights of the appellant were affected, the appeal was dismissed, and the bishop's rulings affirmed. April 26, 1940.

3. A member of an Annual Conference located under the provisions of the 1932 Discipline (Methodist Episcopal Church), although he may have been improperly deprived of his right to be heard when his Annual Conference was considering the report of the Conference Relations Committee on his case, but who thereafter defied the action of the conference by continuing to preach in a charge where previously appointed, thereby forfeits his right of appeal. A member may forfeit his right of appeal by contumacious treatment of the church and its authority. April 27, 1940.

4. ¶ 462 [1939; now ¶ 558], providing for election by Central Conferences of bishops for a limited term, is constitutional. April 30, 1940.

5. That part of ¶ 492 [1939; now ¶ 607, amended] which attempts to grant to members of a Mission Conference [Provisional Annual Conference] the right to elect delegates to

Jurisdictional Conferences is unconstitutional. May 2, 1940. [See ¶ 13.]

6. That part of ¶ 452 [1939; now ¶ 543, amended] which attempts to grant to Mission Conferences [Provisional Annual Conferences] the right to elect delegates to Central Conferences is unconstitutional. May 3, 1940. [See ¶ 17.]

7. The legislation enacted by the 1940 General Conference providing for automatic retirement of clerical members of Annual Conferences whose seventy-second birthday precedes the first day of the regular session of the Annual Conference (¶ 231 [1940; now ¶ 368]) is constitutional, as it is a general principle of constitutional construction that legislation must be upheld unless it is clearly in conflict with the Constitution interpreted as a whole. The matter of uniform regulations for retirement of ministers is a connectional matter, and as such it is a subject over which the General Conference under the Constitution has legislative power. May 5, 1940.

8. An "unstationed" minister under the provisions of the Methodist Protestant Church Discipline of 1936 is in the same relation to an Annual Conference as "located" ministers under the provisions of ¶¶ 235-39 [1940; now ¶¶ 374-79]. April 15, 1941.

9. A general rule by action of an Annual Conference as to retired ministers receiving a pension and also receiving pay as supply pastor is in conflict with the provisions of ¶ 1329 [1940; now ¶ 1627, amended] as to disallowance of claims in whole or in part, as it denies the claimant the right to make an oral or written statement to the Board of Conference Claimants [Conference Board of Pensions], and denies him the protection of the two-thirds vote of the conference prescribed in said paragraph. April 15, 1941.

10. Members of an Annual Conference Board of Lay Activities, being a board that asks for appropriations from the Annual Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, are ineligible for membership on the commission, under the provisions of ¶ 1224 and ¶ 1228 [1940; now ¶¶ 1503, 1506]. April 28, 1942.

11. In view of the inhibition by the Missouri state constitution of religious corporations except to hold title to real estate for church edifices, parsonages, and cemeteries, the trustees of an Annual Conference in Missouri may not be incorporated, but the trustees duly elected as an unincorporated board are the proper parties to recover possession of property of abandoned churches under the provisions of ¶ 782 [1940; now ¶ 188]. April 29, 1942.

12. The decisions of a Joint Distributing Committee duly

constituted under the provisions of ¶ 1312 [1939; now ¶ 1609, amended], having acted in accordance with such provisions, are binding upon the several conferences affected by merger. April 29, 1942.

13. An Annual Conference Board of Conference Claimants [Conference Board of Pensions] is not required to submit its askings for appropriations to the Annual Conference Commission on World Service and Finance under the provisions of ¶¶ 832, 834, and 835 [1940; now ¶¶ 791, 793, 794, amended] but reports its recommendations directly to the Annual Conference in accordance with ¶ 1323 § 2 [1940; now ¶ 1623 §§ 3-4, amended]. To reconcile conflicting provisions in legislative enactment, the entire legislation must be considered, and the legislative intent is to be drawn from the act as a whole. April 29, 1942.

14. Under the provisions of ¶ 1330 [1940; now ¶ 1636, amended], no liability rests on the Annual Conference of which the claimant was a member on retirement for the years of service of such claimant which he served in a Mission Conference. December 8, 1943.

15. Action of an Annual Conference in retiring ministers on age limit, under the provisions of ¶ 231 [1940; now ¶ 368], is legal, as said paragraph has been heretofore held to be constitutional. December 8, 1943.

16. An Annual Conference Committee on Conference Relations and Ministerial Qualifications [Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications] may, under the provisions of ¶¶ 463 and 466 [1940; now ¶¶ 669-71, amended], recommend for admission a minister claiming to come from another evangelical church (¶ 311 [1940; now ¶ 411, but see ¶¶ 412-13]), even though such minister had previously been a member of the same conference from which he had withdrawn; but final action thereon rests with the Annual Conference, which may accept or reject the recommendations for admission submitted by the committee. December 8, 1943.

17. The expenses which may be paid from the General Administration Fund are strictly limited by the provisions of ¶ 848 [1940; now ¶ 765, amended], and therefore the General Commission [Council] on World Service and Finance is not thereby authorized to pay expenses incurred by a Jurisdictional Committee of Appeals acting under the provisions of ¶ 694 [1940; now ¶ 1045]. April 27, 1944.

18. The procedure for restoration of credentials of a traveling deacon or elder which have been surrendered, under ¶ 707 [1940; now ¶ 993, amended], requires that the steps therein outlined shall be strictly followed. April 26, 1944.

19. Under the provisions of ¶ 1309 [1940; now ¶ 1608], ministers who at time of retirement may have been members of an Annual Conference within the territory assigned to the Illinois Corporation are nevertheless entitled to annuities from the Endowment Fund for Superannuates held by the Missouri Corporation on account of the years of service formerly rendered in an Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, or in an Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in territory assigned to the Missouri Corporation. However, no claimant has any vested right or equity in such General Endowment Fund nor the income derived therefrom. April 26, 1944.

20. The widow of a former member of a conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who voluntarily located under the then provisions of the Discipline of that church, may not invoke the provision of that Discipline applying to involuntary locations, and therefore has no claim for a pension which the deceased located minister himself did not have. May 2, 1944.

21. As the only provision in the Constitution relating to election of bishops is that they shall be elected by the respective Jurisdictional and Central Conferences, it would be unconstitutional for the General Conference to elect missionary bishops. May 1, 1944.

22. A bishop, effective or retired, is not a member of an Annual Conference, and should not be counted in reporting total membership of the conference for voting or other purposes. May 2, 1944.

23. The provisions of the Discipline as to declaratory decisions by the Judicial Council do not confer upon the council any legislative power, and whenever there is doubt as to the meaning of any General Conference legislation, it is the duty of the General Conference itself to clarify its own enactment. May 2, 1944.

24. That part of ¶ 934 [1940; now ¶ 1192 § 2, amended], which provides that outside the United States of America lay missionaries may be seated in an Annual Conference "with the right to vote on all questions not ministerial or constitutional, etc.," is unconstitutional, as ¶ 21 of the Constitution strictly defines the composition and qualifications of the members of an Annual Conference. May 2, 1944.

25. ¶ 1716 [1940], under heading "Statement on Peace and War," and ¶ 1712 [1940; now ¶ 2020, amended], under the heading "Our Social Creed," contained identical provisions as to claims for exemption from military service by conscientious objectors who may be members of The Methodist Church, and although the Statement on Peace and War adopted by the

1944 General Conference is somewhat at variance with the "Statement on Peace and War," ¶ 1716, yet it did not repeal ¶ 1712; and accordingly conscientious objectors who are members of The Methodist Church still have the same protection as heretofore. May 4, 1944.

26. The determination of the meaning of the words "church members" as used in ¶ 871 [1940; now ¶ 1129, amended] is a legislative matter within the province of the General Conference, and is not a judicial matter to be settled by the Judicial Council, unless the question arises in some case legally pending before the council. May 3, 1944.

27. Under the provisions of ¶ 1619 and ¶ 1618 § 8 a retired minister of the Mississippi Conference, formerly a member of the Methodist Protestant Church, who originally entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but was involuntarily located, and who was subsequently received into the ministry of the Methodist Protestant Church, is entitled to have the years of service in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, included in the number of years on which his annuity claim is based. December 4, 1944.

28. The Constitution of The Methodist Church provides that boundaries of Annual Conferences shall be determined by the respective Jurisdictional Conference, and this power may not be delegated to the Annual Conferences themselves. December 4, 1944.

29. The Board of Trustees of a local church is not such a body as would have the right to appeal directly to the Judicial Council, so that it may petition for a declaratory decision under the provisions of ¶ 914; but the questions of law involved in any such request for a declaratory decision may be acted upon by the Quarterly Conference under ¶ 362 § 14 and may thus eventually become subject to review by the Judicial Council. December 4, 1944.

30. The action of the General Conference of 1944 in asking for contributions to world service determined by a percentage in excess of contributions during a particular fiscal year is within the constitutional powers of the General Conference as prescribed by ¶ 8 § 9, even though in a particular case it may seem to result in an unfair apportionment. December 5, 1944.

31. Ministers coming from other evangelical churches, whether proceeding under § 1, 2, or 3 or ¶ 411 [1944; later amended] are in all cases subject to the requirement of meeting "the educational standards required of Methodist Ministers." December 5, 1944.

32. Under the constitutional provisions contained in ¶ 8

§ 12 the General Conference may change boundaries of Jurisdictional Conferences only by consent of the Annual Conferences in each Jurisdictional Conference involved. Accordingly the action of the 1944 General Conference granting permission to the Central Jurisdiction only to change boundaries of the Delaware Annual Conference, which proposed changes involved also changes in boundaries of certain Annual Conferences in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, did not grant any power to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference to initiate any such boundary changes. December 5, 1944.

33. The provision of ¶ 914 limits the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council as to declaratory decisions so that they do not include moot or hypothetical questions; and the same principle applies to requests for rulings by a bishop in an Annual Conference, which requests should be based upon some action taken or proposed to be taken, wherein under the specific facts in each case some doubt may have arisen as to the legality of the action taken or proposed. May 8, 1946.

34. District Conferences may license proper persons to preach and other orders under the provisions of ¶ 670 *et seq.* [1944]; but "all votes to license shall be by ballot," and the casting of a ballot by the secretary pursuant to a vote authorizing him to do so is illegal. May 8, 1946.

35. The provision of ¶ 437, in connection with retired bishops of Jurisdictional Conferences, stating that "he may participate in the Council of Bishops, but without vote," is not in conflict with the Constitution, ¶ 34, as the Constitution by ¶ 8 § 5 granted unto the General Conference the power to "define and fix the powers, duties, and privileges of the episcopacy." May 8, 1946.

36. As an Annual Conference has no quorum, a session of conference held in wartime abbreviated to one day, and ostensibly restricted in attendance to officers and certain committees (although it was stated that all members of the conference were entitled to be present), although irregular, was nevertheless a legal session. May 9, 1946.

37. The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council to pass on the constitutionality of an act of the General Conference is limited by ¶ 43 § 1, and its jurisdiction as to declaratory decisions is limited by ¶ 914 [1944; later amended], in neither one of which paragraphs is provision made for initiating any such procedure by an Annual Conference. Accordingly the Judicial Council may not render any decision involving the constitutionality of ¶ 646 on the request, petition, or other action of an Annual Conference only. May 9, 1946.

38. In a case where an Annual Conference (as permitted by

the Discipline) has been incorporated under the provisions of the statutes of the state of Kansas, and the corporation has adopted by-laws in statutory form, the corporate sessions must be called in the manner provided by the by-laws; but when the conference is once in such corporate session, it may exercise all the powers it ever possessed, including the right to amend its by-laws and its charter. May 9, 1946.

39. A resolution of the General Conference of 1944 "that in all official literature and pronouncements of The Methodist Church respecting the date of its origin, it shall date from 1784" does not involve a constitutional question, and accordingly the Judicial Council will not take jurisdiction; but at the same time the council holds that under Art. V of the Declaration of Union the present organization of The Methodist Church began in 1939. May 9, 1946.

40. The decision of the Judicial Council upholding the constitutionality of ¶ 437 as to voting by retired bishops affirmed. (See Judicial Council Decision 35.) April 23, 1947.

41. The footnote to Art. XXIII, Articles of Religion [¶ 83], held to be not a constitutional part of the Articles of Religion. It was made a footnote by legislative act only. April 24, 1947.

42. The provisions of ¶ 646 permitting an Annual Conference to "order an executive session of the ministerial members to consider questions relating to matters of ordination, character, and conference relations," held to be constitutional. April 24, 1947.

43. A standing rule of an Annual Conference, adopted according to ¶ 631 [1944; now ¶ 634], which provides that "a retired minister may not serve on a quadrennial board or commission" is not contrary to the Constitution. April 23, 1947.

44. In Annual Conferences which provide for support of district superintendents according to ¶ 788 [1944; now ¶ 801] the amount of such support (including salary and allowances) and the apportionments thereof must be recommended annually by the Annual Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, and may not be regulated by a standing rule of the conference. April 23, 1947.

45. An Annual Conference may by proper action make appropriations from conference funds to institutions or organizations on the governing boards of which the Annual Conference is not represented by trustees, directors, or other officials. April 23, 1947.

46. The provision of ¶ 1618 § 2i as to calculating years of service of a conference claimant covers "all cases" and

refers to all service of retired ministers, irrespective of whether before or after the year 1944. April 24, 1947.

47. A minister tried in the year 1941, in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Discipline, and the judgment of the trial court affirmed by the Jurisdictional Committee of Appeals in 1942, which judgment became final under the provisions of the Discipline, may not appeal to the Judicial Council to review the case for alleged errors of law under the provisions of ¶¶ 1033 and 1045, which legislation was enacted in 1944 to cover cases decided after said paragraphs became effective; and therefore such an attempted appeal was dismissed. April 24, 1947.

48. A Jurisdictional Conference has the right under ¶ 440 to assign a bishop to the supervision of Mission Conferences and Provisional Annual Conferences, even though the geographical territory covered by such Mission and Provisional Conferences may overlap the geographical territory assigned to other bishops, as there is nothing in the Discipline that would limit the phrase "episcopal area" as used in ¶ 440 to a geographical definition. April 24, 1947.

49. The proviso in ¶ 341 [1944; later amended] as to admission into full connection in the Annual Conference of one who while a student has been regularly appointed as pastor does not eliminate the two-year trial period as required by the first part of this paragraph. May 3, 1948.

50. None of the provisions of the Pension Code, with particular reference to ¶¶ 1618, 1623, and 1624, limit an Annual Conference, in making an apportionment for conference claimants, to an amount exactly necessary to meet the disbursements for that particular year; but under the provisions of ¶ 1613 § 10 [1944; now ¶ 1611 § 13] any excess amount raised by such an apportionment may be used to create a reserve fund for future years. May 3, 1948.

51. An allowance for "travel expenses" to pastors is not to be regarded as supplementary compensation tending to defeat proportional payment under the terms of ¶ 1624, provided always that such item represents an actual expense for the purpose stated, and is not a cover-up for additional salary paid to the pastor. May 4, 1948.

52. The Quarterly Conference of a local church may not appeal to the Judicial Council, nor petition for a declaratory decision, as it is not an "authority in the church that would have the right of appeal" under the provisions of ¶ 914 [1944, later amended]. May 5, 1948.

53. The provision of ¶ 555 [1944; now ¶ 444; see ¶ 20 § 2] giving a Central Conference bishop the right to vote in the

Council of Bishops "whenever the interest of his Central Conference or the interests common to all Central Conferences are involved" is constitutional. May 6, 1948.

54. Enabling acts, adopted in 1940 and 1944, as to continuing the corporate life or operation of various corporations, boards, and other agencies of the church, where the incomplete status still continues, do not need to be re-enacted in 1948, as this legislation, unless specifically limited as to time, is in effect until repealed or amended. May 6, 1948.

55. When the procedure provided by the Constitution for making changes in Jurisdictional Conference boundaries has been complied with, the enactment of legislation by the General Conference making such boundary changes is constitutional. May 6, 1948.

56. Under the constitutional provisions contained in ¶ 8 § 12 the General Conference may change the boundaries of Jurisdictional Conferences only by consent of a majority of the Annual Conferences in each jurisdiction as therein prescribed. Accordingly any legislation attempted by General Conference without complying with these provisions is invalid. May 6, 1948.

57. An amendment to ¶ 440 which would require the consent of the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy for fixing boundaries of episcopal areas is unconstitutional, as this power is reserved to the bishops as a part of episcopal administration under the Constitution. May 6, 1948.

58. Under the Constitution, the General Conference has unlimited authority, *inter alia*, to define and fix the qualifications of elders and deacons; and accordingly a special act of the General Conference prescribing that in the Germany Central Conference the ordination of an elder may take the place of ordination as a deacon, and that the ordination as a deacon may be omitted, is constitutional. May 6, 1948.

59. The Judicial Council has no jurisdiction to determine constitutionality of affirmations of faith. May 7, 1948.

60. That portion of ¶ 607 [1944; later amended; see ¶¶ 7, 13, 24] reading "and they (Provisional Annual Conferences) may elect one ministerial and one lay delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference" is unconstitutional. May 7, 1948.

61. A Central Conference bishop whose term of office expires and he is not re-elected is returned to membership in the Annual Conference of which he ceased to be a member when elected bishop. His term of office expires at the close of the Central Conference at which his successor is elected; hence he would be entitled to participate as a bishop in the consecration of his successor. April 29, 1949.

62. The act of the 1948 General Conference adding to ¶ 901 Art. 1 the following clause: "Provided, however, that as a result of the election each jurisdiction shall be represented on the council," is constitutional. The decision is based on the interpretation that same refers to the manner of election and does not constitute any member of the Judicial Council as the representative of any particular group, section, area or jurisdiction. The Judicial Council is a judicial tribunal, and not a representative body as such. The members are to be free from any sectional interests and to serve the entire church. Any other interpretation of the act in question would render it wholly unconstitutional. April 29, 1949.

63. Designated gifts under ¶ 775 of the 1944 Discipline (¶ 745 of the 1948 Discipline) [deleted in 1952] are subject to the settled and established plan that contributions for the cause of world service and conference benevolences by a charge shall first be divided on the ratio prescribed by the Annual Conference. Only that portion of such contributions allocated under the conference ratio to world service can be designated to world service projects; and only that portion of such contributions allocated under the conference ratio to conference benevolences can be designated to conference benevolence projects. April 29, 1949.

64. An Annual Conference can dispose of by gift to a non-denominational body a college owned and controlled by it even though same has been built by private donations; *provided* that, if there should be assets belonging to the college made in consideration of its remaining a Methodist college under the control and management of the Annual Conference, the disposition of such particular assets would be a matter of property rights and controlled by civil law, over which property rights the Judicial Council would probably have no jurisdiction. April 29, 1949.

65. Terms and provisions set out in ¶ 807 [1948; now ¶ 827] are defined or interpreted as follows: (1) "At any regular session" means any session of an Annual Conference at which business is transacted. (2) "Regular active itinerants," as used in said paragraph, includes only effective members of the Annual Conference serving as pastors, and does not include district superintendents and members of the conference serving under special appointments. (3) By "basic" is meant the schedule of salaries to be paid pastors and supply pastors from a common treasury under any basic salary plan adopted by an Annual Conference; such salaries to be uniform, subject only to the variants allowed under said ¶ 807. Such salaries may be augmented by pastoral charges

as provided in ¶ 807 § 3. (See also Judicial Council Decision 70.) April 29, 1949.

66. The Judicial Council does not have jurisdiction to review the decision of a bishop not requested or made in open session of an Annual or District Conference. April 29, 1949.

67. Under the Constitution, ¶ 15, the Jurisdictional Conference has authority "to make rules and regulations for the administration of the work of the church within the jurisdiction." The act of the South Central Jurisdictional Conference recommending that "no Annual Conference establish a conference encampment without consideration by the Conference Board of Education" is constitutional. April 29, 1949.

68. When a minister is elected and consecrated as a bishop in The Methodist Church, he ceases to be a member of an Annual Conference and is no longer subject to the Ministers Reserve Pension Plan. April 29, 1949.

69. Under the grant of powers to Central Conferences by General Conference legislation within the provisions of the Constitution, the Germany Central Conference had authority to create an administrative committee to have charge of current matters of business, and to represent that conference in legal matters arising between conference sessions. Such committee, however, shall be responsible to the Central Conference. April 26, 1950.

70. Although by the general terms of ¶ 807 [1948; now ¶ 827] district superintendents are not included in the classification of "regular active itinerants" (see Judicial Council Decision 65), yet in an Annual Conference which provides for support of district superintendents on recommendation of the Conference Commission on World Service and Finance (¶ 788 [1948; now ¶ 801]), if it also adopts the basic salary plan, there should be included therein the support of district superintendents. April 27, 1950.

71. Enabling acts, adopted in 1940 and in 1944, as to continuing the corporate life or operation of various corporations, boards, and other agencies of the church, where the incomplete status still continues, do not need to be re-enacted, as this legislation, unless specifically limited as to time, is in effect until repealed or amended. April 28, 1950.

72. ¶ 347 [1948; now ¶ 330, amended] applies only to the four-year course of study and does not apply to the two years' graduate study required of members of the conference admitted by the three-fourths vote rule under ¶ 323 [1948; now ¶ 325 § 3]. The Annual Conference under ¶ 22 has authority to prescribe time in which these two years of graduate study must be completed. For derelection of a member in this respect

the Annual Conference could, under other provisions of the Discipline, take appropriate action. April 29, 1950.

73. An Annual Conference has the authority to instruct its Board of Conference Claimants [Conference Board of Pensions] to include supply years in computing the annuity years of a member of the conference. January 3, 1951.

74. A business session of the lay delegates to an Annual Conference would be illegal if not called for the purpose of electing lay delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences. January 3, 1951.

75. The Ohio Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, now being the White Cross Hospital Association of Ohio, is the source of ultimate control of the White Cross Hospital and has the right and power at its discretion to change or amend the method of electing the trustees of the corporation; but, until the Annual Conference changes the method set forth in Art. VI of the present constitution of said White Cross Hospital Association, it is bound thereby. January 3, 1951.

76. § 2 of ¶ 502 [1948; now ¶ 505] is not unconstitutional. The following sentence in § 3 of ¶ 502 "A spring Annual Conference may elect the delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences at its third regular session following the adjournment of the General Conference," is unconstitutional. November 28, 1951.

77. (1) A report to an Annual Conference, containing a financial statement which the Discipline requires to be audited, should not be approved until the audit is made and the financial statement is shown to be correct. Other parts of the report may be approved pending such audit.

(2) The Discipline does not specify the manner of presenting nominations for conference lay leader to the Annual Conference; hence oral nominations are permissible unless the Annual Conference has provided otherwise.

(3) In the Kentucky Annual Conference the nomination of the conference lay leader, to be valid, must be made by the Annual Conference Board of Lay Activities by ballot at a meeting of such board at which a majority of the members of the board are present and voting, and by a majority vote of the members of the board present and voting.

(4) The Discipline does not require that a certificate reciting the process by which the nomination was determined shall be presented with the nomination. When the nomination of a conference lay leader is presented to the Annual Conference by a representative of the Board of Lay Activities, the regularity of same will be presumed in the absence of a showing to the contrary. November 27, 1951.

78. The Annual Conference has no authority to delegate its responsibilities and powers to Quarterly Conferences except as explicitly given that authority by the General Conference. Therefore the Pittsburgh Annual Conference had no authority to delegate to the Quarterly Conferences the power to determine whether or not the Annual Conference would adopt the [Ministers] Reserve Pension Plan. November 28, 1951.

79. The Annual Conference has no authority to delegate its responsibilities and powers to Quarterly Conferences except as explicitly given that authority by the General Conference. Therefore the Illinois Annual Conference had no authority to delegate to the Quarterly Conferences the power to determine whether or not the Annual Conference would adopt the [Ministers] Reserve Pension Plan. November 28, 1951.

80. A Central Conference bishop whose term of office expires or is terminated is returned to membership in the Annual Conference of which he was a member when elected bishop. D. D. Alejandro is bound by the 1948 action of the Central Conference under which he was elected, consecrated, and served as bishop. At the close of the 1948 session of the Philippines Central Conference he automatically became an effective member of the Philippines Annual Conference. November 27, 1951.

81. A retired minister whose pension payments from the Annual Conference were reduced during the quadrennium 1944-48 in accordance with the provisions of ¶ 1630 § 1, Discipline of 1944 [deleted in 1948], has no right to claim from the Board of Conference Claimants [Conference Board of Pensions] the amount of such reductions. November 28, 1951.

82. It is not necessary to adopt a fixed rule to determine the applicability of the term "full-time ministry" (¶ 343 Question 17 [1948; now ¶ 345]), as each case must be considered by the Committee on Conference Relations on the facts applicable thereto. November 28, 1951.

83. Under present provisions of the Discipline no age limit has been made for the retirement of Central Conference bishops. ¶ 436 applies only to bishops assigned to jurisdictions under the Plan of Union and those elected by Jurisdictional Conferences since Union. Under ¶ 8 the General Conference has the right to prescribe a uniform rule for the superannuation of all bishops, but to date it has not exercised that power. April 26, 1952.

84. All bishops elected by a Jurisdictional Conference under ¶ 439 have the same status as any bishop assigned to a jurisdiction under the Plan of Union or who has been elected by a

Jurisdictional Conference; and any bishop assigned to or elected by any Jurisdictional Conference may be assigned to any area over which the jurisdiction has been given episcopal supervision, including missions outside the territory of such jurisdiction. April 30, 1952.

85. The transfer of a local church of the Central Jurisdiction to an Annual Conference of another jurisdiction can be done only in accordance with appropriate action of the General Conference, Jurisdictional Conferences, and Annual Conferences, as provided in the Constitution. This method of making such a change can only be changed by a constitutional amendment. May 1, 1952.

86. (1) The sentence: "Such a society of believers, being within The Methodist Church and subject to its Discipline, is also an inherent part of the Church Universal, which is composed of all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and which in the Apostles' Creed we declare to be the holy catholic Church," is not so clearly in violation of the First Restrictive Rule as to constitute its insertion in the proposed legislation of which it forms a part a legal matter of such a nature as to authorize the Judicial Council to take jurisdiction and render a decision as to its constitutionality.

(2) The proposal to add by legislation the words "is the creation of God and" to ¶ 101 of the report under consideration, same being Art. XIII of the Articles of Religion, does alter and change said article. It is therefore in violation of the First Restrictive Rule, and is unconstitutional. May 3, 1952.

87. There is nothing in either the Constitution or the general legislation of The Methodist Church that would deprive a retired traveling preacher of his right to vote as a full member of the Annual Conference. May 5, 1952.

88. A retired member of an Annual Conference may be elected to membership in a Central Conference if he meets the conditions required by law of all those who represent their Annual Conferences in the General or Central Conference. November 25, 1952.

89. A Committee of Investigation has authority only to inquire whether or not the accused person is guilty of committing one of the offenses enumerated in ¶ 921. Its findings must be certified and declared to the Annual Conference by the district superintendent. If in the judgment of the committee the evidence does seem to substantiate the accusation, the committee has no alternative but to prepare and file the proper charges and specifications. November 25, 1952.

90. The provisions of ¶ 806 § 4 [1948; now ¶ 826 § 3, amended] are mandatory.

91. An unordained student pastor, who is a candidate for the traveling ministry, while serving as a regularly appointed pastor of a charge, may be authorized to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and, if the laws of the state permit, to perform the marriage ceremony within the bounds of his pastoral charge, provided he has passed the course of study for admission on trial; but he may be excused from advancing in the conference course of study while attending a college or seminary "approved by the authorized standardizing agency." November 25, 1952.

92. An Annual Conference may authorize a subsidiary hospital corporation to borrow up to a certain percentage of the value of its property for the purpose of its expansion program. When appraised as provided in the resolution under consideration, it cannot be held that such resolution authorized an unlimited incurring of indebtedness. November 25, 1952.

93. No quorum is necessary for a session of the Quarterly Conference, and it is legal to reduce the number of the trustees in a church from nine to three to comply with the state law.

94. Dr. L. Dorsey Spaugy, being the first in order of election of the ministerial alternates to membership upon the Judicial Council, is the lawful successor of Dr. Chas. B. Ketcham, deceased. June 25, 1953. [From the decision: "The expressions 'of each class' or 'respective classes' as used in the articles of ¶ 901 quoted above refer to ministerial and lay members or ministerial alternates or lay alternates, and not to the class or classes of any particular year or years."]

95. Special appointments listed in the Annual Conference journal in compliance with ¶ 1618 § 4, showing annuity responsibility, must be the special appointments of the current conference and not those of the previous conference. June 26, 1953.

96. The Discipline of The Methodist Church is a book of law, and the only official and authoritative book of law of The Methodist Church—"a body of laws pertaining to church government," regulating every phase of the life and work of The Methodist Church, including regulations relating to its temporal economy and to the ownership, use, and disposition of church property. June 26, 1953.

97. All "approved full-time supply pastors" except those who have already been ordained elders are required to obey the provisions of ¶ 320 [1952; now ¶ 317 § 3, amended]. June 26, 1953.

98. An Annual Conference may create a commission or

"council" for the purpose of correlating and promoting the work of the various agencies of the conference but without authority over those boards, commissions, and committees whose powers and duties are defined in certain paragraphs of the Discipline. July 19, 1954.

99. General legislation giving the Division of National Missions of the Board of Missions control over the work of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (a Kentucky corporation) did not give it the authority to change the residence of the secretary from Louisville, Kentucky, where it was fixed by basic law under the facts in this case. The General Conference is the only body which has power to make the change contemplated. July 19, 1954.

100. Where there is no District Conference, the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications has sole and final authority to license local preachers, and to renew their licenses. Where there is a District Conference the final authority for licensing local preachers and for renewing their licenses is vested in the District Conference. In either case, for the securing of a license that applicant must comply with the provisions of ¶ 304 [1952; now ¶ 306, amended]. In the matter of renewal of a license, where there is a District Conference, it is the duty of the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications to examine the applicant and report to the District Conference whether in its opinion the "gifts, graces, and usefulness" of the applicant warrant a renewal; but the final action for such renewal shall be taken by the District Conference. July 20, 1954.

101. The word "consult" in ¶ 432 § 1 means an exchange of ideas between the district superintendent and the pastor concerning his appointment before the final announcement. Simultaneous releasing of the appointments before the final reading does not constitute consultation as required in ¶ 432 § 1. July 20, 1954.

102. (1) A second Quarterly Conference held on May 13, 1953, on a call announced to the congregation at its prayer service April 29, 1953, was regular and had the right to consider and act upon the matter of proceedings to recover from the ex-treasurer the treasurer's books and records for the previous year; and the courts will entertain suits between members of the church as between members of society and other groups.

(2) The action of the Quarterly Conference of Inglenook First Methodist Church adding to its Board of Trustees three

new members at its second Quarterly Conference was null and void.

(3) The resolution of the Quarterly Conference authorizing the trustees to employ attorneys without the fee being stipulated was within the authority of the Quarterly Conference and was legal.

(4) The meeting of the Board of Trustees not called by the chairman and participated in by three illegally elected trustees was illegal and void. July 20, 1954.

103. A steward and trustee having been church treasurer for years and having failed of re-election, and then withholding the church records and account books from his successor and from the Commission on Finance and Auditing Committee, was acting at variance to his duties as a steward and trustee, and was subject to being removed from the offices of steward and trustee by the Quarterly Conference to which he was amenable without having been previously notified of such proposed action, and without charges being preferred against him under ¶¶ 1001-5. The Board of Stewards [Official Board] and the Board of Trustees are subject to the Quarterly Conference, and so are the individual stewards and trustees; and when a steward or trustee acts contrary to his duties as such the Quarterly Conference has the inherent right and authority to vacate his offices as steward and trustee. July 20, 1954.

104. After a lapse of two years since the charges were lodged by the Investigating Committee, and when the application is accompanied by the proper recommendations, and other requirements of the Discipline have been met, no trial is necessary on the old charges in order to have a preacher's credentials restored according to ¶ 993. The Annual Conference determines for itself whether there has been complete amendment of life on the part of the applicant and what committee shall present the recommendation to the Annual Conference. July 20, 1954.

105. The words "upon recommendation of the Committee on Conference Relations" [¶ 365] do not mean that an Annual Conference cannot act contrary to its committee's recommendation if it wishes to do so. July 20, 1954.

106. There is no legislation in the 1952 Discipline of The Methodist Church dealing with pension for a resigned bishop or his widow and therefore no basis for a declaratory decision on such legislation by the Judicial Council as requested by the executive committee of the Council on World Service and Finance. The Judicial Council therefore declines to accept jurisdiction in this instance. July 20, 1954. [See ¶ 435 § 2 as amended in 1956.]

107. The words "or subdivisions" as they appear in the second line of ¶ 174 mean subdivisions of governmental agencies and not subdivisions of private real estate projects. July 20, 1954.

108. If the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference are the directors of the incorporated Annual Conference and are performing the same functions and duties as those assigned to an incorporated Board of Trustees in ¶ 709 [1952; now ¶ 711], that constitutes a substantial compliance with the provisions of ¶ 709, and the separate incorporation of the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference is not necessary. July 21, 1954.

109. An Official Board or a Quarterly Conference has no authority in the law of The Methodist Church to order or instruct lay or reserve lay members to vote in any prescribed manner on issues expected to come before an Annual Conference. July 21, 1954.

110. A minister who locates voluntarily retains his relationship as a local preacher in the Quarterly Conference where he resides. His license is not subject to renewal annually. He is held amenable for his conduct and the continuance of his ordination rights to the Annual Conference in which his Quarterly Conference membership is held. He continues as a local preacher in the Quarterly Conference until such time as he voluntarily surrenders his credentials or is deprived of such by due process of trial. July 21, 1954.

111. The answer of a candidate for the traveling ministry to the question set out in ¶ 321 Question 4 [1952; now ¶ 322 § 5 Question 5] as to abstinence from the use of tobacco in order to be satisfactory must be in the affirmative and without qualification. July 21, 1954.

112. An approved supply pastor represents his charge as a pastor in every respect except the right to vote. Therefore he cannot represent the charge in the dual capacity of pastor and lay member at the same time. July 29, 1955.

113. A pastoral charge consists of all the churches of a circuit, and they are entitled to elect only one lay member to an Annual Conference. July 29, 1955.

114. That part of ¶ 431 § 7 which requires the consent of a ministerial member of an Annual Conference before he can be transferred to another Annual Conference is constitutional. July 29, 1955.

115. While an Annual Conference has the right to fix the dates of the fiscal year on which it operates, from the legal point of view the conference year begins with the adjournment of an Annual Conference session and ends with the adjourn-

ment of the next regular session of the conference. July 29, 1955.

116. The Judicial Council has jurisdiction only on questions of law. The charges against appellant, though meager, are sufficient to inform him of the offense with which he is charged. The charges having been made during the session of the Annual Conference, the accused was triable under ¶¶ 936 and 937, and not under ¶ 935. Five days were given the accused to prepare for trial. As a matter of law that cannot be held to be insufficient time. ¶ 1006 establishes a policy that the counsel for the accused must be a traveling preacher. By inference the assistant counsel provided in ¶ 1007 must be a traveling preacher. The trial having been conducted substantially in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, the judgments of the Trial Court and of the Court of Appeals are in all things affirmed. July 29, 1955.

117. A retired bishop of a Central Conference is authorized to attend meetings of the Council of Bishops with expenses paid. July 29, 1955.

118. Church treasurers cannot withhold the three per cent pension fund assessments on salaries of ministers and remit them to the pension board. Such assessments must be sent in by the ministers themselves. If the ministers should agree to such withholding and authorize the church treasurer to send same to the fund in quarterly installments, that would constitute compliance with ¶ 1646 [1952; amended in 1956]. July 29, 1955.

119. When an Annual Conference adopts a standing rule, it is bound by such rule unless same is suspended or rescinded and some other action taken. Any action in conflict with the standing rule taken without suspending or rescinding the rule is void. Therefore, the proceeds of the sale of Grace Methodist Church belong to the Conference Claimants Endowment Fund as determined by the standing rule of the Oregon Annual Conference. July 29, 1955.

120. Fred B. Noble being automatically retired from membership upon the Judicial Council at the 1956 General Conference, he would be in all respects eligible to serve as a delegate to the 1956 Jurisdictional Conference of the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church, which meets after the 1956 General Conference closes. The time of his election as such a delegate is immaterial, his eligibility to serve as such delegate at the time the Jurisdictional Conference meets being the determining factor as to the validity of his election. July 30, 1955.

121. Since the Philippines Central Conference has failed

to take action regarding the ordination of women, the North-west Philippines Annual Conference has the right to ordain a woman as a local deacon. July 30, 1955.

122. The phrase "who has been appointed in the regular itinerant work on circuits or stations" in ¶ 341 [1952; amended in 1956] must be interpreted as applying only to pastoral appointments to circuits or stations. April 26, 1956.

123. An Annual Conference has the power to hear, discuss, amend, adopt, or reject reports from conference boards even though they contain material referring to persons or organizations in a derogatory manner without their having prior notice. April 26, 1956.

124. A preacher on trial in an Annual Conference cannot serve as lay delegate in a Central Conference. April 26, 1956.

125. The Tennessee Annual Conference of the Central Jurisdiction with forty-one ministerial members is entitled to only one ministerial and one lay delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference. These two are the delegates elected to the General Conference. April 26, 1956.

126. A Central Conference bishop may preside over the General Conference. April 27, 1956.

127. The General Conference has authority to authorize a Jurisdictional Conference to elect a missionary bishop. April 30, 1956.

128. The Liberia Annual Conference cannot be a part of the Central Jurisdiction. May 1, 1956.

129. An Annual Conference may grant the privileges of the floor to a minister in a sister church, but cannot grant to such minister the right to vote. May 3, 1956.

130. A Quarterly Conference may adopt a policy for the election of trustees which is subject at all times to suspension or rejection by a majority vote of the Quarterly Conference. May 5, 1956.

CHAPTER II

ENABLING ACTS

¶ 2003. Past Enabling Acts

The enabling acts adopted by the General Conferences of 1940, 1944, 1948, and 1952 may be found in the journals of those conferences.¹

¹ See Judicial Council Decisions 54, 71.

¶ 2004. Numbers of Bishops in Central Conferences

1. The Africa Central Conference is authorized to elect one bishop for that Central Conference, provided that by such election there shall not be more than two effective bishops resident in that field at any one time during the quadrennium. (See ¶ 2005 § 2.)

2. The China Central Conference is authorized to elect one or more bishops for China, provided that by such election there shall not be more than four effective bishops resident in that field at any one time during the quadrennium.

3. The Latin America Central Conference is authorized to elect two bishops for Latin America, provided that by such election there shall not be more than two effective bishops in that field at any one time during the quadrennium.

4. The Southern Asia Central Conference is authorized to elect one or more bishops for that Central Conference, provided that by such election there shall not be more than five effective bishops resident in that field at any one time during the quadrennium, except as provided in ¶ 2005 § 4.

5. Any episcopal vacancy in a Central Conference occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled as set forth in ¶ 561; provided, however, that the number of bishops holding residential supervision within the bounds of the respective Central Conferences shall at no time during the quadrennium exceed the numbers specified above in §§ 1-4, and one each in Central and Southern Europe, Germany, Northern Europe, the Philippines, and Southeastern Asia.

¶ 2005. Special Provisions for Episcopal Supervision

Presidential, visitational, and residential episcopal supervision of fields outside the United States not included in Central Conferences, and in emergency situations in Central Conferences, shall be provided during the 1956-60 quadrennium as follows:

1. The Central Jurisdictional Conference shall provide residential and presidential supervision for the work in Liberia and is hereby authorized according to the provisions of ¶ 8 § 4 and ¶ 439 to have one bishop in addition to its membership quota in order to provide for this supervision.

2. The Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference shall provide residential and presidential supervision within the Africa Central Conference, and is hereby authorized according to the provisions of ¶ 8 § 4 and ¶ 439 to have one bishop in

addition to its membership quota in order to provide for this supervision.

3. The South Central Jurisdictional Conference shall provide for episcopal visitation to the Latin America Central Conference and to the affiliated autonomous churches in Latin America.

4. If an emergency situation should make it impossible for a bishop elected by the Southern Asia Central Conference to reside within the bounds of the Indus River Annual Conference, the College of Bishops of the Southern Asia Central Conference, or alternatively the Council of Bishops, is authorized to provide episcopal supervision for that Annual Conference for the duration of the emergency.

5. The Council of Bishops shall provide episcopal supervision for the Taiwan Mission and the Hong Kong Mission.

Inasmuch as the territory in which is located the work for which the foregoing provides the episcopal supervision is not in any case included in the geographical boundaries of the Jurisdictional Conference which elects the bishop or bishops involved, therefore the said bishops are directed to report on the supervision of their fields to the Council of Bishops as well as to the Central Conferences to which they are related.

If during the ensuing quadrennium any emergency in episcopal supervision should arise in any of the fields covered by the foregoing provisions, the Council of Bishops shall provide the necessary episcopal supervision.

¶ 2006. Central Conferences

1. On full compliance with all the provisions of the Discipline of 1956 relating thereto the Latin America Central Conference is authorized to conduct a Central Conference with privileges and powers as provided under Central Conference legislation, provided that it shall have at least a total of twenty ministerial delegates and twenty lay delegates on the regular basis of representation.

2. On full compliance with all the provisions of the Discipline of 1956 relating thereto, the Southern Asia Central Conference is authorized to increase by one the number of Annual Conferences in that Central Conference during the quadrennium.

3. Any Central Conference already provided for in the enabling acts of this General Conference hereby is authorized to continue during the quadrennium ending in 1960 even though it may fall below the Disciplinary membership.

¶ 2007. Organization of Annual and Provisional Annual Conferences

1. On full compliance with all the provisions of the Discipline of 1956 relating thereto, the Mindanao, Polish, Sarawak, and Sumatra Provisional Annual Conferences are authorized to become organized into Annual Conferences during the quadrennium ending in 1960.

2. On full compliance with all the provisions of the Discipline of 1956 relating thereto, the Austria Mission and the work in Patagonia and in Sind and Baluchistan are authorized to become organized into Provisional Annual Conferences during the quadrennium ending in 1960 with in each case a minimum of six ministerial members.

3. On full compliance with all the provisions of the Discipline of 1956 relating thereto, the Taiwan Mission and Hong Kong Mission are authorized to become organized into the Taiwan-Hong Kong Provisional Annual Conference during the quadrennium ending in 1960, provided together they shall have a minimum of nine ministerial members; and the resulting conference is authorized to become organized into the Taiwan Provisional Annual Conference and the Hong Kong Provisional Annual Conference during the said quadrennium, provided each shall have a minimum of six ministerial members.

¶ 2008. Continuation of Annual and Provisional Annual Conferences

1. Authority is hereby given the Belgium, Burma, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Idaho, Northeast Germany, and Tennessee (Central Jurisdiction) Annual Conferences to continue as Annual Conferences during the quadrennium ending in 1960.²

2. Authority is hereby given the Baltic and Slavic and the Kalgan Provisional Annual Conferences to continue as Provisional Annual Conferences during the quadrennium ending in 1960.

3. The Northeast Germany Annual Conference may change its boundaries if necessary during the quadrennium ending in 1960.

4. Any Annual or Provisional Annual Conference already

² Similar authorization for the Wyoming State Annual Conference was made subject to approval of the Western Jurisdictional Conference, which instead directed that the said conference be merged, effective in 1957, with the Colorado Annual Conference to form the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. (See ¶ 1847.)

provided for in the enabling acts of this General Conference hereby is authorized to continue during the quadrennium ending in 1960 even though it may fall below the Disciplinary membership.

¶ 2009. Transfers from the Central Jurisdiction

On full compliance with all the requirements of ¶ 532, authority is hereby granted for the transfer of local churches as follows:

1. Mitchell Memorial Church, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from the Washington Conference, Central Jurisdiction, to the Central Pennsylvania Conference, Northeastern Jurisdiction.

2. Quayle Church, Salina, Kansas, and St. Mark's Church, Wichita, Kansas, from the Central West Conference, Central Jurisdiction, to the Central Kansas Conference, South Central Jurisdiction.

3. Scott Memorial Church, Denver, Colorado, Scott's Church, Pueblo, Colorado, People's Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, from the Central West Conference, Central Jurisdiction, to the Rocky Mountain Conference, Western Jurisdiction.

For previous enabling acts relating to such transfers see footnotes to ¶¶ 1768, 1773.

CHAPTER III

QUADRENNIAL COMMISSIONS

¶ 2011. Commission on Church Union

1. There shall be a Commission on Church Union, composed of one bishop, one minister, and one layman from each jurisdiction, nominated by the Council of Bishops for election by the General Conference. The duties of this commission shall be: (a) to consider specific overtures or proposals for organic union with other denominations and report to the General Conference, (b) to initiate studies looking toward organic union, (c) to confer with representatives of other denominations in any general discussion of church union, (d) to encourage interdenominational co-operation throughout the church and to have responsibility for any interdenominational activities not specifically cared for by other agencies. The expenses of this commission shall be paid from the General Administration Fund.

2. For information and guidance regarding the subject of church union in India and Pakistan:

a) In continuing negotiations toward church union under the authority of ¶ 579, care should be taken: (1) that assurance shall be given that there will be full reciprocal recognition of membership and ministry between the proposed union church and all its predecessor denominations; (2) that specific provision shall be made for continuing patterns of relationship between the proposed united church and its predecessor denominations, perhaps like those between The Methodist Church and the affiliated autonomous Methodist churches and the Church of Christ in Japan (¶¶ 600-605); (3) and that the General Conference through its proper commission or commissions shall be adequately informed about the detailed provisions for possible church union in Southern Asia, so that, if and when necessary, it may act wisely regarding such proposals in accordance with ¶ 579. Therefore the Southern Asia Central Conference is requested during the quadrennium 1956-60 to make available to the Commission on Church Union and to the Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas the plan of union of the proposed united church and to keep these commissions advised as to the progress of the negotiations.

b) In the event of a Central Conference joining in a united church, the proposals for such union having been approved by the General Conference (¶ 579), the support of Methodist bishops who are effective at the time of union and who continue in that office in the united church should be aided, if necessary, throughout their service from the General Episcopal Fund in accordance with the provisions of ¶ 559 § 1, or provisions similar thereto.

¶ 2012. Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas

1. There shall be a Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas for the quadrennium 1956-60. Recognizing the difference in conditions that exist in various fields of the world, and the changes taking place in those fields, this commission shall continue to study the structure and supervision of The Methodist Church in its work outside of the United States and its territories, and its relationship to other church bodies, and shall prepare such recommendations as it considers necessary for presentation to the General Conference of 1960.

2. The commission shall be constituted as follows: four bishops administering in Jurisdictional Conferences, four

bishops administering in Central Conferences, one minister and one layman from each Jurisdictional Conference, and one person from each Central Conference; *provided* that a Central Conference having a church membership of 200,000 or more shall have two representatives. All of these shall be nominated by the Council of Bishops and approved by the General Conference. There shall be added to the commission by the Board of Missions four persons: two from the Division of World Missions, and two from the Department of Work in Foreign Fields of the Woman's Division of Christian Service. Bishops having supervision of work outside the United States and its territories and bishops of affiliated autonomous churches shall be considered consultive members of the commission and shall be called in, when available, at the time of meeting of the commission. When a representative of a Central Conference cannot be present to represent his field, the bishop or bishops of that field shall designate someone to represent it. Those members of the commission representing Central Conferences who are not delegates to the General Conference or who are not in the United States at the time the commission will meet shall be replaced by persons who are in the United States on nomination of the bishops of the Central Conferences they represent.

3. The commission shall meet immediately following election for organization, annually at the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Missions, and immediately before the General Conference of 1960.

4. The expenses of this commission shall be paid from the General Conference Expense Fund.

¶ 2013. Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System

1. The General Conference of 1956 hereby authorizes creation of a Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System, in response to the numerous memorials and resolutions before this General Conference requesting a study of the structure of the jurisdictional system, and to implement the recommendations contained in the Episcopal Addresses of 1952 and 1956:

"In our world, our nation, and our church, however, racial discrimination and segregation do exist. As sincere followers of our Lord it is our business to help free our world and our nation from these evils. But it is more immediately our imperative duty to confess our failure to achieve God's will in Methodism and then resolutely to set about achieving a

Christian brotherhood in the church that will be free from racial discrimination and segregation. . . .

"The union of the three branches of Methodism has strengthened our fellowship through understanding and united devotion to a common task. We believe that within the organizational framework of the united church are to be found effective procedures for the development of Christian brotherhood.

"Notable advances have been made under our present organizational structure. However, seventeen eventful years have passed since the long-to-be-remembered day when three separate bodies of Methodism dedicated themselves to be one church. New issues have arisen, and new duties confront the church.

"The Council of Bishops, therefore, recommends that a commission large enough to be truly representative of all our people be constituted by this General Conference for the purpose of studying the jurisdictional structure of the church, its philosophy and its effectiveness, and that it report its findings with recommendations to the 1960 session of the General Conference. Through this medium we believe that a way can be charted to advance the church steadily toward the fulfillment of the Christian imperative for racial relations."

2. This commission shall be composed of one minister and one lay person from each jurisdiction for each 500,000 church members or major fraction thereof, with a minimum of three ministers and three lay persons from each jurisdiction, elected by this General Conference on nomination by the Council of Bishops after consultation between the bishops and the chairmen of the Annual Conference delegations within their respective jurisdictions. Officers shall be elected by the commission from the above named and elected members. The membership shall also include twelve bishops, two from each jurisdiction, and twelve additional laymen, two from each jurisdiction, nominated by the Council of Bishops and elected by this General Conference. There shall be a convenor appointed by the Council of Bishops, who shall convene the commission within six months following the adjournment of the General Conference. Vacancies occurring during the quadrennium shall be filled by the College of Bishops of the jurisdiction in which the vacancy occurs.

3. The responsibilities and authority of this commission shall be as follows:

a) To make a thorough study of our jurisdictional system, with special reference to its philosophy, its effectiveness, its

weaknesses, and its relationship to the future of The Methodist Church.

b) To carry on studies and conduct hearings in all the jurisdictions on racial segregation in The Methodist Church and all other problems related to the jurisdictional system.

c) To develop courses of action directed toward greater interracial brotherhood and the spirit of Christian love.

d) In the performance of its duties, to draw on the resources of other agencies of The Methodist Church to assist in such research.

e) To distribute to the local churches such facts and information during the quadrennium as may be deemed helpful to the work of this commission and of value to the church.

f) To present its findings and recommendations to the General Conference of 1960 in a report which shall be printed and distributed to the delegates thereof at least three months prior to the convening of the conference.

4. The memorials and resolutions presented to and/or adopted by this General Conference dealing with the structure of the jurisdictional system may be referred to this commission.

5. The work of the commission during the quadrennium of 1956-60 shall be financed from the General Administration Fund according to the budget adopted by the General Conference on recommendation of the Council on World Service and Finance.

¶ 2014. Commission on Christian Higher Education

For the composition, responsibilities, and relationships of this commission see ¶ 2018 § 1 under Chapter IV, The Quadrennial Program.

CHAPTER IV

THE QUADRENNIAL PROGRAM

¶ 2016. The Long-Range Objectives

The Christian faith is challenged by an aggressive atheism and a determined materialism in all parts of the world. Neither the strategy of defense nor the tactics of appeasement will suffice. Christianity envisions nothing less than the

world-wide conquest of the minds, hearts, and wills of men in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Communism and secularism must be seen for what they are—namely, attempts to master the mind. Other powerful ideologies constitute a similar challenge. Historically our day will be seen as a struggle for the minds of men. This is the essential fact.

This struggle is waged in a revolutionary epoch in which political, social, and economic spheres are involved and in which irreconcilable concepts of the nature of man are at war. The common people of the earth demand freedom and abundant life, and thus call for the end of colonialism and imperialism and the abolition of poverty. They insist that power must be brought under democratic control and that justice must be established by the democratic process; they cry out for economic justice and racial brotherhood.

The Communist proffers revolutionary proposals alleged to be scientifically based and designed to abolish the exploitation of man by man and to set up a classless society. Actually Communism cannot obtain these goals, for it lacks the cohesive power of love which is essential to social unity.

Christians hold that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is to become the ruler of the kings of the earth, King of kings and Lord of lords. The Communist sees religion, and especially the Christian religion, as an opiate, a means to be used by a ruling class to keep the poor in subjection. He holds that social emancipation necessitates fundamental readjustments in property relations. The Christian knows that man's needs, involving property as they do, root deeper and lie in the soul. It is not revolution or even reform that takes first place; it is regeneration. A new spirit in the heart of humanity is basic. Man must be reborn. The Christian Church proclaims a gospel that creates new men in Christ Jesus. Through evangelism and education it would develop the mind that was in Christ.

This mind must be inspired by the teaching and preaching of the local church and must be revealed in the practices of the local community. The mind that was in Christ must become regnant in the thought of each succeeding generation of students in the educational institutions of his Church. It is nothing less than freedom itself that is at stake in the struggle for the minds of men.

Man now possesses weapons by which he may commit suicide. He is fearful that civilization may be cremated in the fires of a hydrogen blast. To ensure a peaceful, just, and brotherly world, man's mind must be reached and mastered

by the mind that was in Christ Jesus. The quadrennial program adopted for 1956-60 is based on this conviction, and is therefore conceived in evangelistic and educational terms, designed to bring the full power of the local churches and of the educational institutions of The Methodist Church to the realization of this objective—the mind that was in Christ Jesus.

The long-range objectives of The Methodist Church are to be found in the way, the truth, and the life of our blessed Lord and in the subsequent revelation of God's will in the New Testament and in the spirit and practice of the early Church. More specifically these objectives are set forth in the Disciplinary statements of purpose of the respective boards and commissions of the church. For instance, the Board of Missions declares its long-range objective to be: "to make the Lord Jesus Christ known to all peoples in all lands as their divine Saviour, to persuade them to become his disciples, and to gather these disciples into Christian churches; to enlist them in the building of the Kingdom of God; to co-operate with these churches; to promote world Christian fellowship; and to bring to bear on all human life the spirit and principles of Christ." (¶ 1166.) The Constitution of the church and the Disciplinary provisions for the work of its agencies constitute the organizational plan to realize the long-range objectives.

Experience has proved that planning cannot be projected wisely for periods of much longer than a quadrennium. Thus, in effect, the successive quadrennial programs are the long-range planning of the church. They are based on decisions taken in the General Conference in keeping with the long-range objectives.

The strategy that has undergirded our successive quadrennial programs may be summarized as follows: By selecting from time to time a particular need and challenge within the church's total program and for a period interpreting it to our people and calling them to rally to its support, we lift that particular interest to a new plane of effectiveness and continue its larger service after the special emphasis is ended. The experience of the last twelve years has proved that such emphasis does not curtail the work of other agencies. We have learned instead that all are benefited by the increased effectiveness of one. "If one member is honored, all rejoice together."

1. The first quadrennial program (1944-48) was the Crusade for Christ. We ventured upon a five-pronged thrust, including a fund of \$27,000,000 for reconstruction and a church-wide effort in behalf of evangelism, church-school en-

rollment, stewardship, and, at the end of a world conflict, an appeal for a new world order.

The immediate results of the Crusade were evident. While these were significant, the impact upon the continuing life of the church was more significant. Something was started. A new missionary strategy emerged. We have witnessed an increasing momentum in the missionary activity of the church since the dramatic appeal of 1945. Our contributions to this cause have increased far beyond the Crusade level. In 1944 the missionaries serving overseas numbered 1,227; in 1954 they numbered 1,513, and this in spite of adverse conditions arising out of a world in conflict. Following the Crusade's evangelistic emphasis, the Board of Evangelism has become one of the most aggressive agencies of the church. Since 1944 the church-school enrollment has increased more than two million. The Crusade laid the foundation for our present stewardship emphasis, and quickened the conscience of the church concerning the evils of war and the Christian hope of peace and brotherhood among all people.

2. In the General Conference of 1948 there was deep conviction that the gains of the Crusade should be a base from which to launch a continuing advance. The Advance for Christ and His Church was the answer, and became the quadrennial program for 1948-52. By carefully planned use of the church's existing organization the people in our local churches were instructed in our Christian faith and mission and challenged to give increasing and adequate support to the missionary program of the church through Advance specials and the Week of Dedication. The response was magnificent—even amazing. The amount contributed to the cause of missions through the Advance of 1948-52 was considerably larger than the amount contributed to the same cause through the Crusade during the quadrennium preceding, and we believe our people were more firmly established in the bonds of a common faith.

At the end of the quadrennium the General Conference of 1952, mindful of the experience of the two quadrenniums preceding, wrote the Advance, including the Week of Dedication, into the law of the Discipline, thereby making it a continuing institution in the church. By this legislation our special missionary needs and opportunities are continually presented through the regular channels of the church to every local congregation. A movement thereby became an institution. The Board of Missions is currently receiving nearly one half its income from the Advance, and the support thus received continues to increase. Though the Advance and its dynamic

missionary appeal have been lifted out of the category of a quadrennial emphasis, it is essential to our expanding missionary program that it shall ever be considered an established and continuing feature in the ongoing life of the church.

3. The General Conference of 1952 made the emphases of the 1952-56 quadrennium the stewardship of possessions, the youth program, church extension, and perfecting the organization of every local church in line with the legislation which the conference had adopted. The reports of the quadrennium indicate the progress that was made in all these areas.

The Discipline provides that the Co-ordinating Council "in consultation with the Council of Bishops and the Council of Secretaries . . . shall formulate and present to the General Conference, for its action and determination, plans for a unified, ongoing program for the church, including long-range objectives" (¶ 1115 § 3). The Co-ordinating Council, the Council of Bishops, the Council on World Service and Finance, the Council of Secretaries, the president and treasurer of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, and other persons, after due consultation, as directed, accordingly recommended, and the General Conference determined, that the quadrennial program for 1956-60 shall be directed toward: (1) the enrichment of the local church under the supervision of the Council of Bishops, and (2) the strengthening of our institutions of learning under the leadership of a commission set up by the General Conference for that purpose, as follows.

¶ 2017. The Local Church Emphasis

We seek a creative Christian program which will cause each church member to experience such dedicated and trained relationship to Jesus Christ and his Church that God can use him for a more perfect realization of his purposes in every area of personal and social living, and that others may be brought to join in this active fellowship, prepared to co-operate with all Christians toward achieving Christian world community.

The need for such a program centering in the local church is clearly urgent. The Methodist Church, richly blessed of God, has grown mighty in strength and resources. It has approximately ten million members and as many more adherents in the United States of America and in half a hundred other lands. It has approximately 45,000 local churches across the world through which it carries on its manifold ministries. It has more than 25,000 ministers, 1,500 missionaries, and hundreds of thousands of trained and consecrated lay workers devoted to its tasks.

The aggregate of its achievements in recent years is indeed impressive. A net gain in membership of more than 1,820,000 has been achieved since the time of union in 1939. Nearly 1,200 new churches were founded in the United States in the past quadrennium, and a vast expansion was effected in the physical facilities of thousands of local churches and other Methodist institutions. There has been notable advance in church-school attendance, and the tide has been definitely turned in Methodist Youth Fellowship enrollment and participation. Support of missionary and benevolent enterprises has reached an all-time high. The total giving of The Methodist Church for all causes during the past quadrennium exceeded one and one-quarter billion dollars. The love and loyalty of the local churches have made this impressive record for Methodism possible.

However, pride of achievement must not blind us to our shortcomings. What The Methodist Church as a whole has accomplished is tremendously noteworthy. Nevertheless, how much greater might those total results for the Kingdom be if every local church were brought up to its highest effectiveness and fruitfulness.

Too many of our local churches now function imperfectly. A far more impressive record could be written for The Methodist Church as a whole if all our local churches were fully organized according to the provisions of the Discipline and if all of them could be brought to a fresh vision of their potentialities as churches, a proper sense of their responsibility for reaching people, and a fuller dedication of their resources to the causes of the Kingdom.

The uncomfortable fact must also be faced that many of our local churches have dropped into a "status quo" condition or are actually losing ground year after year, while those whose records are most excellent are quick to confess that they are still falling short of their full potential for the Kingdom.

"To whom much is given, of him will much be required." Strong as The Methodist Church is in numbers and resources, the extent and quality of all the services of *all* its local churches must be lifted if it is to meet its full responsibility to our world and our time in Christ's name. This requires improving the quality of Christian living of all our pastors and people. We cannot go forward further unless we go deeper in spiritual empowerment and personal dedication.

With this in mind, we undertake the following program for enriching and strengthening the local church:

1. *Study and Analysis.*—There shall be in each Annual

Conference a Quadrennial Committee on Local-Church Goals, consisting of the bishop, the district superintendents, one minister and one layman from each district, the conference lay leader, the presidents of the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service and of the Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship, a representative from each of the conference boards taking part in the program, and such additional persons as the committee shall select. This committee shall analyze the situation within the conference with reference to the "production story" of all its churches. It shall maintain throughout the quadrennium the emphasis on local-church development, and shall provide techniques by which each district superintendent, in his role as counselor, may think through with each local church in his district the questions: Where is this church now? At what point of larger fruitfulness might it arrive? How shall it get there?

2. *Goals.*—Under the guidance of the committee and the district superintendents the local churches in the conference are to determine their goals.

3. *Emphases:*

a) *Christ and Ourselves.*—"First they gave themselves to the Lord." (II Cor. 8:5.)

There is to be concerted concentration on improving the quality of Christian experience, dedication, and Christlike living of all our ministers, members, and other constituents. Methods are to be proposed for use in local churches to clarify and intensify what it means to be a Christian in this kind of day, to bring about a full dedication consciously made or renewed, to establish holy habits and a Christlike code of conduct which will undergird and express that total dedication.

b) *Christ and Our Resources.*—"As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (I Pet. 4:10.)

There is to be particular and persistent attention given to:

(1) The systematic presentation of the lifework opportunity and challenge in church vocations at home and abroad, with prayerful cultivation of choice youth and young adults for such service.

(2) The marshaling and training of volunteer manpower and womanpower for more adequate and effective lay leadership and lay participation in and through the local church.

(3) The promoting in every local church of stewardship education and commitment, holding up the tithe as our minimum standard of giving.

(4) The improving of the functioning of the Official Board,

the commissions, the church school, and other basic organizations of the local church.

(5) The encouraging of local churches to provide more adequate buildings and other facilities for Christian education, worship, and other essential ministries.

(6) The raising of the level of ministerial support, especially in those Annual Conferences where the pastoral salary average has scarcely reached the subsistence minimum.

c) *Christ and Our Mission.*—"You shall be my witnesses . . . to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8.)

Fresh measures are to be devised and employed:

(1) To nurture in every local church a more vital appreciation of the duty and privilege of witnessing for Christ and his cause.

(2) To help each local church to face the unreached opportunities and unmet responsibilities confronting Methodism in rural and isolated areas.

(3) To challenge each local church to sponsor new churches in rapidly growing suburban areas and new industrial developments and to give assistance to deteriorating sections of our great cities.

(4) To encourage each local church to see that its doors open out to the whole community and to the whole world, and to encourage each local church to assume its full share of responsibility in the total program of the Christian world mission.

d) *Christ and Our Freedom.*—"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:32.)

A continuing emphasis is to be maintained:

(1) To work for the creation of a "responsible society."

(2) To interpret and apply the social implications of the gospel, such as: Freedom from want, insecurity, and economic injustice (with special emphasis on the local churches in the underdeveloped countries of the world).

Freedom from the evils of liquor, gambling, and narcotics.

Freedom from inadequate care of dependent children, the aged, and the sick.

Freedom from racial and class injustice.

Freedom from international disorder and war.

4. *Implementation:*

a) The carrying out of this program to enrich and strengthen the local church is delegated to the Council of Bishops, with the suggestion that the council call upon all of the general agencies of the church for such assistance as it deems necessary.

b) The Interboard Commission on the Local Church is

requested to budget an amount adequate to print and distribute material for this emphasis, as requested by the Council of Bishops.

c) The Council on World Service and Finance is requested to make a reasonable increase in the promotion funds now made available to the bishops in order to meet certain area expense incident to the promotion of this phase of the quadrennial program.

d) The bishops and district superintendents shall look to the pastors and established commissions and committees of the Official Boards to achieve the goals of this program.

¶ 2018. The Higher Education Emphasis

The Church Universal lives and labors under the compulsion of the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." The commission carries with it the persuasive authority of him whom we confess to be the Head of the Church.

Our Lord's words are timeless—as pertinent to this era and the tasks that challenge us as to the first century. The Church is in the world to capture the hearts of men and to make them faithful disciples of the Nazarene and also to capture their minds and established them in the truth that leads to abundant and unending life. By missions and evangelism we extend the frontiers of the Kingdom. By education we build the City of God. These are two phases of one magnificent enterprise.

An organized church-wide effort to expand and strengthen the educational program of The Methodist Church in the United States of America is long overdue. The following plan is adopted for highlighting the mission of the church in the field of higher education and for strengthening our institutions of learning for more effective service. The same task of strengthening our institutions of higher learning in other lands where the demand also is imperative and the urgency pressing is entrusted to the Central Conferences in which they are located, with the assistance of the Board of Missions through the Division of World Missions and the Department of Work in Foreign Fields of the Woman's Division of Christian Service.

1. a) There shall be constituted a Quadrennial Commission on Christian Higher Education, which shall have general direction and supervision of the quadrennial higher education

emphasis in accordance with the directives hereinafter contained. It shall be composed as follows: the effective bishops resident in the United States, and two bishops from Central Conferences elected by the Council of Bishops from those who are in the United States when the commission meets; four ministers and six laymen from each jurisdiction, elected by the General Conference on nomination of the Council of Bishops; the president, vice-presidents, and twelve other members of the General Board of Education, elected by the board or its executive committee; the general secretaries of the three divisions of the Board of Education and of the Division of World Missions of the Board of Missions; and twenty members at large elected by the commission on account of their experience and ability in the field of education. The commission at its discretion may elect advisory members without vote. It shall elect its own officers for the quadrennium.

b) The expenses of the commission shall be provided from the World Service Fund according to the schedule of distribution recommended by the Council on World Service and Finance and voted by the General Conference. Its annual budget shall be subject to approval by the General Board of Education. Its headquarters shall be in Nashville, Tennessee. It may employ such executive and clerical assistance as it may judge to be necessary for the effective promotion of its work within the limits of its budget. The Commission on Promotion and Cultivation shall have such responsibility in this field as may be mutually agreed on by the two commissions.

2. There are few precedents to guide us in a church-wide emphasis on Christian higher education over a period of time. New trails must be blazed and techniques developed. Accordingly, certain specific directives are given in this subsection, and to these are appended below (§ 3) certain suggested procedures which are not mandatory. The commission should be given considerable liberty to find its way and to determine its methods.

a) The over-all task committed to the commission is to strengthen the bonds that bind our institutions of learning to the church, to lead our schools and colleges to a thorough commitment to Christian standards and ideals, and to lead the church in an effort to undergird them with adequate moral and financial support. The commission's program shall include the institutions of learning related to the Division of Educational Institutions of the General Board of Education, including theological schools and Wesley Foundations. The commission shall work in co-operation with the Division of Educational

Institutions, the Boards of Education of the respective Annual Conferences, and the Boards of Trustees of the respective educational institutions.

b) The commission shall, by such procedures as it may determine, and in co-operation with the Division of Educational Institutions and with local foundations, promote the work of the Wesley Foundations, assisting local foundations in raising funds and making their work effective on college campuses.

c) If the distinctive service which our schools and colleges render the church and society were made clear and convincing, the moral and financial support they now receive would be materially increased. The commission shall therefore especially address itself to the basic task of interpretation, to wit:

(1) To interpret to our church-related colleges and universities their place and function in the life of the church and the obligation of these institutions to be Christian in teaching and in practice, and in their policies of serving the youth of the local churches, conferences, and areas from which they receive support.

(2) To interpret to our people of The Methodist Church the distinctive function of our institutions of learning in the church and in society. The church must continue to look principally to her own educational institutions for trained leadership. These institutions, dedicated to Christian ideals, must as heretofore be evangelists in the field of higher education, to the end that the Christian concept of God and man may become the dominant element in American culture. The commission shall, as far as practicable, make use of our existing church organization in the prosecution of this task, setting up, with the aid of bishops, district superintendents, conference secretaries of education, college administrators, Wesley Foundation administrators, and others, educational conferences on the district and Annual Conference level; supplying speakers at conferences, pastors' schools, convocations, and other church gatherings; and producing appropriate materials for our church-school publications, conference and area papers, and the secular press. It is suggested that the commission give consideration to the preparation of a popular study book on the church and its institutions of learning for use in leadership training schools, pastors' schools, church schools, men's clubs, and elsewhere.

d) The commission shall study the financial status of our church-related institutions of learning and lead the church in an effort so to undergird them that their efficiency, academic standards, permanence, and support of Christian ideals shall

be assured. It shall devise such methods of credit for the local church as it may determine. It shall not undertake a single nationwide financial campaign for the benefit of all our educational institutions. It is patent that in the main these institutions must find support on a conference, area, or regional basis. The commission shall therefore encourage individual institutions or groups of institutions, conferences, areas or jurisdictions to assume leadership in providing adequate support for our schools of all grades, and for Wesley Foundations, and shall supply expert advice, possible plans of procedure, personal leadership, and other assistance as the need may require and as the commission may determine.

e) We rejoice in the appropriations of the past quadrennium for our theological schools, Scarritt College, and the American University. Our entire system of theological education has been strengthened; the program of training for Christian service at Scarritt has been enriched; and the American University in the nation's capital has moved toward a position of security. These institutions stand in a unique relationship to the church at large.

A nonrecurring item of \$250,000 a year shall be included in the world service budget during the coming quadrennium to establish a School of International Service in the nation's capital. The sum of one million dollars thus made available in the quadrennium shall be used to build the necessary structure and to establish an endowment necessary to maintain the School of International Service in perpetuity. The distribution shall be as follows: \$375,000 for building; \$500,000 for endowment; and \$125,000 to cover the difference between the tuition and cost of operation during the first four years, until a student body of two hundred has been achieved. At that level, tuition and endowment income will balance the operating budget. The sums above mentioned may be adjusted within the total amount by the trustees of American University, with the approval of the Division of Educational Institutions of the General Board of Education.

This undertaking sponsored by the whole church will not only serve a specific need but also serve to highlight the church's renewed educational emphasis and thereby give impetus to the appeals of all our educational institutions.

The School of International Service, a school of the American University, shall be regarded as an institution of the entire church, established by the church as a basic contribution to religious liberty and to the maintenance of the Protestant tradition of freedom throughout the world. Careful studies as to curriculum, faculty, personnel, and administration show that

the university, for the sum requested, can house and maintain in perpetuity such a school. It is assumed that the contributions for world service will be increased substantially and that this appropriation will not reduce the amount received by any world service agency but will come out of the increased giving which in itself will increase the receipts of all the major world service agencies.

3. To the specific directives above named (§ 2) certain possible procedures are hereunder appended for the guidance of the commission, the same being for the commission's consideration without the force of a mandate:

a) It is necessary that on the Annual Conference level there be a Quadrennial Committee on Christian Higher Education, for the purpose of initiating and implementing any proposed campaign or policy. It is recommended that this committee be constituted by the Annual Conference and that representation from the Conference Board of Education be included in its membership. If two or more Annual Conferences co-operate in an undertaking or appeal, the committees of the participating Annual Conferences should be jointly the implementing body.

b) The commission may constitute from its membership a committee to examine the charters of the respective institutions of learning related to The Methodist Church to determine the actual status of relationship. The bonds connecting a number of our educational institutions with the church should be strengthened. It is recommended that in instances where such strengthening is desirable the commission encourage the trustees of the institutions concerned to take appropriate steps to alter their charters accordingly.

c) In an appeal to the membership of the church for the support of our institutions of learning at least two approaches are possible: (1) a financial campaign and/or (2) an apportionment transmitted annually by the respective Annual Conferences to local churches and accepted by the respective Quarterly Conferences, as in the case of world service and conference benevolences. The nature of the appeal and the financial goals and apportionments shall be determined by the Annual Conference concerned in each undertaking, and the commission shall adjust its procedures accordingly. In many cases special financial campaigns are advisable and will be undertaken. It does not appear, however, that periodic appeals will provide for the continuing financial needs of our educational institutions. It is highly important that we develop in our whole constituency a conscience concerning the continuing support of our institutions of learning and that a procedure be

established in all our conferences by which our people will contribute annually per member an average of not less than one dollar for the support of educational institutions related to the respective conferences, and not less than thirty cents for Wesley Foundations. If such a program can be made effective among nine and a half million Methodists in the United States, we will witness the dawn of a new day in Christian higher education.

d) The commission shall give consideration to requesting the several Annual Conferences to set aside a certain percentage of the sums received for their schools and colleges, less percentage to be remitted to the Division of Education Institutions and administered by it for educational institutions where there is special need, with due recognition of the needs of those historically operated for Negroes.

e) The commission shall give consideration to recommending to all our educational institutions that each set aside out of funds received from the church a certain portion for permanent endowment, thus establishing a backlog of security.

f) The commission shall give consideration to constituting a committee to work out a procedure whereby an appeal may go to our people in every local church to leave in their wills a bequest in some amount for some institution of learning in the church.

g) The commission shall give consideration to constituting a committee to promote a plan of appeal to the alumni of all our institutions of learning. If, for example, each alumnus should recognize his obligation to the college or university at which he received his training and should resolve to return to her, either by gift during his lifetime or by bequest, the cost of his education over and above the fees he paid, a new loyalty would appear and a continuing avenue of support would be opened.

4. For more than two centuries the Methodist movement has been a stalwart patron of education. Its beginning may be traced to Oxford University. John Wesley, our spiritual father, was a scholar as well as an evangelist. His spiritual zeal would hardly have changed the religious climate of England and America in the eighteenth century had there not been coupled with it a trained and discerning mind. As the Methodist movement pushed westward over the American continent, it left in its wake schools as well as churches. The circuit riders were pioneers in building colleges and universities. Many of them remain, and they are the church's indispensable asset. Such is our heritage.

The perils and opportunities of the present challenge us more

insistently than the heritage of yesterday. We live in an age of moral confusion. Materialism and Communism defy the Christian concept of God and man. The centuries prove that the Christian Church builds itself into the culture of a people through its institutions of learning. We look forward to the day when our institutions of learning, committed to the Christian ideal, shall occupy as pivotal a position in the total program of The Methodist Church as missions and evangelism.

¶ 2019.

In Conclusion

In the adoption of a quadrennial program for the four years ahead it is assumed that certain causes that have been highlighted during previous quadrenniums will for the indefinite future bear more abundant fruit—notably evangelism, stewardship, church extension, and the missionary advance. We now set our feet on a new trail and direct our special effort to the enrichment of the local church and the strengthening of our institutions of learning. The thousands of local congregations where the people live and labor and worship together make the church what it is. The enrichment of the local church is the enrichment of the whole body. Our institutions of learning are the church's indispensable bulwarks against the encroaching tide of secularism and unbelief. We dare not hope to win the long conquest unless our bulwarks are strong. A program that, on the one hand, looks to the enrichment of the great body of the church and, on the other, builds the defense of Christian idealism and trains the leadership of tomorrow is fraught with unmeasured possibilities. Under that conviction, and in consciousness of the trust that is committed to the church, this quadrennial program is undertaken.

CHAPTER V

THE METHODIST SOCIAL CREED

"We instruct those in charge of publishing the Discipline to include the Social Creed, with such revisions as may be adopted from time to time, in all future editions unless other directions are received from the General Conference."—Discipline, 1940.

¶ 2020.

I. OUR HERITAGE.—The interest of The Methodist Church in social welfare springs from the gospel, and from the labors of John Wesley, who ministered to the physical, intellectual,

and social needs of the people to whom he preached the gospel of personal redemption.

In our historic position we have sought to follow Christ in bringing the whole of life, with its activities, possessions, and relationships, into conformity with the will of God.

As Methodists we have an obligation to affirm our position on social and economic questions.

II. OUR THEOLOGICAL BASIS.—The Methodist Church must view the perplexing times and problems which we face today in the light of the teachings of Jesus. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors and seek justice for them. To be silent in the face of need, injustice, and exploitation is to deny him.

We believe that God is Father of all peoples and races, that Jesus Christ is his Son, that all men are brothers, and that man is of infinite worth as a child of God.

We believe that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof." Our own capacities and all we possess are gifts of the Creator, and should be held and used in stewardship to him.

We believe that a Christian society is essential to the full nurture of a Christian person.

We believe that sin, both individual and social, stands under the judgment of God, and that the grace of God in Christ is available for redemption in all areas of life as we seek in penitence and obedience to do his holy will.

We believe that all persons have supreme value in the sight of God, and ought to be so regarded by us. We test all institutions and practices by their effect upon persons. Personality is oppressed in many parts of the world, and we seek its emancipation and those things which will enrich and redeem it. Since Jesus died for the redemption of human life, we believe we should live to help save man from sin and from every influence which would harm or destroy him.

III. OUR DECLARATION OF SOCIAL CONCERN.—Applying the foregoing principles, The Methodist Church declares itself as follows:

A. The Family.—We seek equal rights and justice for all men; protection of the individual and the family by high standards of morality; Christian education for marriage, parenthood, and the home; adequate housing, proper regulation of marriage, and uniform divorce laws.

We stand for regulation of working conditions for women, especially mothers, and safeguards for their physical and moral environment; for the abolition of injurious child labor; for the protection, education, spiritual nurture, and wholesome recreation of every child; and for religious and educational programs which will secure these ends.

B. Economic Life.—1. Christianity and the Economic Order.—With full acknowledgment of stewardship under God and accountability to him, we stand for the acquisition of property by Christian processes and the right of private ownership thereof. We refuse to identify Christianity with any economic system. We test every economic order by the commands of our Christ and judge its practices by the Christian gospel. We believe that it is our duty not only to bring Christ to the individual, but also to bring the society within which we live more nearly into conformity with the teachings of Christ. We believe that the free democratic way of life ruled by Christian principles can bring to mankind a society in which liberty is preserved, justice established, and brotherhood achieved. We therefore pledge ourselves to sustain these values and to implement the teachings of Christ by voting our Christian convictions in all elections, by participating in political action as party members or independents, and by offering and supporting candidates who will translate our social ideas into social reality.

2. Poverty and Unemployment.—We believe that the economic development which makes possible material plenty for all places upon us great moral responsibility, in that the physical and spiritual development of millions of persons throughout the world is now needlessly hindered by poverty. We therefore stand for the abatement and prevention of poverty everywhere.

We believe that it is our Christian duty to provide for all men opportunity to earn an adequate livelihood. Since lack of significant employment tends to destroy human self-respect, we believe that workers must be safeguarded from enforced unemployment.

3. Wealth.—We recognize the perils of prosperity. Our Lord has told us that we cannot serve God and mammon. As Christians we must examine earnestly before God both our personal and our business practices, lest we unwittingly adopt the standards and assumptions of a materialistic society to the exclusion of our Christian stewardship.

Since churches and their institutions as well as individuals own property, invest funds, and employ labor, care must be exercised that all such relationships conform to the highest Christian standards. Any judgment upon society must "begin at the house of God."

4. Working Conditions.—We oppose all forms of social, economic, and moral waste. We urge the protection of the worker from dangerous and unsanitary working conditions, and from occupational diseases.

We stand for reasonable hours of labor, for just wages, for a fair day's work for a fair day's wage, for fair working conditions, for periods of leisure, and for an equitable division of the product of industry.

5. Social Benefits for Workers.—We stand for security for old age, for insurance against injury to the worker, and for increased protection against those preventable conditions which produce want.

6. The Right to Organize for Collective Bargaining.—We stand for the right of employees and employers alike to organize for collective bargaining, protection of both in the exercise of their right, and the obligation of both to work for the public good.

7. Rural Life.—We recognize the basic significance of rural areas in relation to population supply, natural resources, community life, and Christian culture. Methodism, because of its large rural membership and world-wide impact, must lead in developing an adequate Christian program in rural areas everywhere. This should pertain to people in their relationship to God, to the soil and all natural resources, and to family, church, and community welfare. We believe the farmer should have opportunity to earn a fair income.

8. Urban Life.—Our society is becoming increasingly urban. The city is a center of power for good or ill, and its shifting multitudes desperately need the guiding and healing power of religion. The church must recognize that the city exhibits great needs and offers amazing opportunities for Kingdom building.

9. Christian Vocation.—We believe that every adult should be engaged, so far as possible, in some vocation productive of common good. Every such vocation should be viewed as a Christian calling, and our daily work as a sphere of service to God for the advancement of his Kingdom.

C. Intoxicants and Narcotics.—Total abstinence is the historic position of our church. We seek to protect the individual, the home, and society from the social, economic, and moral waste of any traffic in intoxicants and habit-forming drugs and from the invasion of the home by the advertising of alcoholic beverages. We urge objective and scientific study of the effects of alcoholic beverages and narcotics, and the use and support of educational processes in teaching abstinence through knowledge of these effects. The church should also seek to understand the causes of alcoholism and drug addiction, and to give help to their victims in a healing and redemptive ministry and fellowship.

D. Treatment of Crime.—We stand for the application of the redemptive principle to the treatment of offenders against

the law, to reform of penal and correctional methods, and to criminal court procedure. For this reason we deplore the use of capital punishment.

We recognize that crime, and in particular juvenile delinquency leading to crime, is often a result of bad social conditions. Christian citizens and churches have a special opportunity and responsibility for creating those conditions of family life, wholesome recreation, vocational training, personal counseling, and social adjustment by which crime may be reduced.

B. Freedom from Discrimination.—We stand for the rights of racial groups and insist that the social, economic, and spiritual principles set forth in this creed apply to all races alike. We urge individual Christians and churches to make a serious and prayerful examination of their own attitudes and practices in regard to racial equality and fellowship with the determination to bring our practices into conformity with Christian ideals.

F. War and Peace.—**1. Principles.**—We stand for these propositions: Christianity cannot be nationalistic; it must be universal in its outlook and appeal. War makes its appeal to force and hate, Christianity to reason and love. The influence of the Church must therefore always be on the side of every effort seeking to remove animosities and prejudices which are contrary to the spirit and teaching of Christ. It does not satisfy the Christian conscience to be told that war is inevitable. It staggers the imagination to contemplate another war with its unspeakable horrors in which modern science will make possible the destruction of whole populations. The methods of Jesus and the methods of war move in different directions.

It is not enough to declare the evil of war; we must actively and constantly create the conditions of peace. Among these are the promotion of understanding, reconciliation, and good will; the relief of suffering; the lifting of living standards around the world; concern for the freedom and welfare of dependent and subject peoples; the removal of racial tensions; the taking of all available steps toward disarmament; the giving of encouragement and support to patient negotiation by our leaders. These efforts must be viewed as a personal Christian responsibility and steadfastly undergirded with prayer.

2. International Co-operation.—We believe that the United Nations, as the agency and symbol of international co-operation, should be given our support. The issues before it merit our careful and continuous study. In the realm of international affairs the United Nations is our best hope for peace.

We believe that world peace is advanced by the United Na-

tions and other international organizations and by more social use of our national resources. To missionary work as in the past we need to add new forms of international social co-operation.

3. The Christian Conscience and War.—The Methodist Church, true to the principles of the New Testament, teaches respect for properly constituted civil authority. It encourages both love of country and love of all men. Believing that government rests upon the support of its conscientious citizens, it holds within its fellowship those who sincerely differ as to the Christian's duty in regard to war. We ask and claim exemption by legal processes from all forms of military preparation or service for all religious conscientious objectors, as for those of the historic peace churches. We also recognize the right of the individual to answer the call of his government according to the dictates of his Christian conscience. In both these situations members of The Methodist Church have the authority and support of their church.³

G. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.—We stand for the recognition and maintenance of the rights and responsibilities of free speech, free assembly, and a free press, and for the encouragement of free communication of ideas essential to the discovery of truth.

We stand for the right of all individuals and groups to advocate any peaceful and constitutional method for the solution of problems that may confront society.

We stand upon the principle of testing every such proposal in the light of the teachings of Jesus.

IV. OUR MANDATE—READ, STUDY, APPLY.—We recommend that this Social Creed be presented to our congregations orally or in printed form at least once a year, and that frequent references be made to it. We further recommend that in every local church a committee shall encourage the study of our Social Creed and seek in every possible way to apply its principles.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

Adopted by the General Conference of 1956

¶ 2021.

The Christian Family

The modern family is struggling against great difficulties: the tensions created by the world situation, uncertainties due

³ See Judicial Council Decision 25.

to the present military demands on youth, inadequate housing, uprooting of families due to unprecedented population shifts, and the coarsening influence of many mass media on the lives of children. The end result of these difficulties is evidenced by the high rate of divorce, juvenile delinquency, broken lives, and a general laxity of moral standards. It is only when the family fulfills its highest functions and is truly Christian that its members rise above these difficulties and thus aid in halting the trends threatening the home.

The home is the place where emotional weaknesses of the members of the family come to light, where children express their innate hunger to be secure, to belong, to be needed, to be recognized.

Religion and the family naturally belong together. What religion is to accomplish it can do best in the family. What the family must do, it cannot do without religion. Religion and the family are natural allies. Religion is inseparable from the family. Family life at its best is a matter of living life at the deepest level, which is a level of relationship to God.

1. *What Is a Christian Family?*—A Christian family is one in which parents so live the Christian life and practice the presence of God that children come to accept God as the greatest reality of life.

A Christian family is one in which each member is accepted and respected as a person having sacred worth.

A Christian family is one that seeks to bring every member into the Christian way of living.

A Christian family is one that accepts the responsibility of worship and instruction to the end of developing the spiritual life of each person.

A Christian family is one that manifests a faith in God, observes daily prayer and grace at meals, is committed to behavior in keeping with Christian ideals for family relations, community life, and national and world citizenship.

2. *Religion and the Family.*—The undergirding love of God, as taught by Christian parents, by word and example, is one of the greatest sources of emotional and spiritual security for the growing life. Where the awareness of God is present, families will find opportunities for informal experience of prayer in many situations of life. The beauties of nature, the joys of comradeship, the tragedies of bereavement, the elation that comes with good fortune, the facing of common problems—all these can be shared with God in the simple words of prayer.

In addition to these moments of informal religious expression, the Christian family will provide for planned periods of

worship. This will include the participation in leadership by children as well as by adults. There is no substitute for the Bible as a central aid to worship when parents read it with appreciation for the growing needs of children. We recommend the use of such resources for worship as *The Christian Home*, *The Upper Room*, and the devotional materials in the church-school literature.

3. *Marriage Relations.*—Marriage is an achievement. It doesn't just happen. It comprises a growing oneness in which emotional adjustments from time to time are affected by an understanding of right ways of living together.

a) *Preparation.*—It is increasingly obvious that if marriage is to succeed, there must be adequate preparation. Therefore, it is recommended that a regular course of instruction for youth on the Christian ideals of friendship, courtship, and marriage be given in each local church, using the available materials. In our youth assemblies, camps, and institutes qualified persons should give counsel on personal problems, social relations, and the duties and privileges of Christian marriage. Suitable books, pamphlets, and audio-visual resources should be made available for young people. It is further recommended that courses of instruction for young married couples on home building, income budgeting, child training, life adjustments, and personality problems be given by each local church.

The time has come when every person planning marriage should have the opportunity for skilled and careful counseling by ministers or staff workers who are prepared in this field. If this is to be done, pastors must be trained to guide young people through premarital and postmarital counseling.

b) *Mixed Marriages.*—Religious convictions should be a strong tie in marriage. Recent research has emphasized the importance of common cultural and religious backgrounds as the foundations of successful marriage. It is therefore strongly urged that each young person consider carefully before becoming engaged to anyone who does not have a similar religious background. It is important that Protestant youth discuss this problem with their ministers before it is too late. Ministers are urged to discuss with both youth and parents the likelihood of failure in mixed marriages.

c) *Planned Parenthood.*—We believe that planned parenthood, practiced in Christian conscience, may fulfill rather than violate the will of God.

d) *Divorce.*—Divorce is not the answer to the problems that cause it. It is symptomatic of deeper difficulties. The church must stand ready to point out these basic problems to couples

contemplating divorce, and help them to discover and, if possible, to overcome such difficulties. In addition, the church must stand ready to depict the unhappy circumstances that are to await the divorced person. As a Christian church, and as ministers, we are obligated to aid, by counsel, persons who have experienced broken marriage, and to guide them so that they may make satisfactory adjustments.

4. *Relationships in the Home.*—It is living together within the family that is the final test of religious living. The highest qualities are found in the life and character of Jesus Christ; these must be manifest in daily family living.

If we want to help the children in our homes develop, there must be an inner acceptance of each child. He must be loved for himself with all the limitations he may possess. In each instance he must be treated as an individual.

a) *Parent-Child Relations.*—We recognize that parents are constantly teaching in the home in unrecognized ways as well as in their conscious efforts. Parents, in co-operation with the church-school teachers, should make possible the Christian education of their children throughout the week. There is great need for parents to interpret to their children in a Christian way the present world issues and needs, the politics of national and international relationships, the efforts of the people of the world through the United Nations to do those things which make for peace and more abundant life, the complex problems created by the use of beverage alcohol and narcotics, and the need for adhering to Christian moral standards amid the tensions and pressures of our present-day living. There is also need for parents to guide their children in learning how to evaluate the propaganda to which they are constantly subjected through newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and movies. At these points the church and the family can support and strengthen each other in their ideals of personal conduct and social righteousness.

b) *Co-operation.*—We recommend that our churches co-operate with other agencies in the community that are working for the improvement of family life and for the strengthening of Christian character. The National Conference on Family Life has demonstrated one way in which the boards and agencies of the church can work together for the promotion of Christian family living.

c) *Sex Education.*—Parents must assume the responsibility of interpreting to each child, before his adolescence, the facts regarding the origin of life. If properly instructed, parents are best fitted to educate their children in regard to sex; but if they have been negligent, then qualified persons in the church

should reverently teach the beautiful truths of life. We recognize that sex education is not mere information. It includes also the formation of attitudes and habits.

d) *Mass Media.*—Parents must also help their children evaluate literature and radio and television programs which come into the home and counteract the undesirable publicity brought into the home through these mass media in terms of Christian and wholesome attitudes, to the end that their children will develop a taste for the best.

e) *Three-Generation Families.*—In the family there must be a recognition of the older adult. Medical science is making life increasingly longer. Older adults need and should have a significant place of recognition as members of the family circle.

5. *The Church and the Family.*—The church and the family need each other. Through their support of the church, parents teach by example the importance of the church in the life of the nation. When they neglect the church, they teach their children that the church is of little importance in the lives of people.

To help parents understand the importance of teaching in the home, and the best methods for guiding their children, it is recommended that local churches make provision for study classes and discussion groups on child development, family relationships, and the teaching of religion in the home, using the helpful materials provided through the regular publications of the church.

There is value in all the members of the family worshipping together both in the home and in the church. It is expected that local churches will provide resources and help for the family worship experiences. Churches are encouraged to hold occasional special services at which the entire family can worship together, with the service planned for the participation of all age groups.

It is important for the churches to focus attention on the family at frequent intervals during the year. Especially do we recommend the observance of National Family Week as provided in ¶ 250 § 5.

Parents and teachers are urged to meet together frequently to discuss the Christian nurture of children and ways in which they can work together for better teaching. Parents are urged to read together with their children the lesson materials provided by the church. Teachers are urged to keep parents informed regarding the objectives of the lesson materials and to point out ways in which parents can further these objectives through home participation.

6. *Legislation.*—To protect both the individual and society

from hasty marriages we favor legislation requiring a period of days or weeks between the application for a marriage license and the granting of it. This will allow sufficient time for consideration on the part of the two persons concerned. We also favor a longer interval between application for and granting of divorce.

We recommend laws requiring a medical examination of both contracting parties, and the refusal of a license to those unfitted physically or mentally by heredity or otherwise for the responsible state of matrimony.

We further favor uniform marriage and divorce laws.

¶ 2022. Temperance and Public Morals

1. *Beverage Alcohol.*—The Methodist Church reasserts its long-established conviction that intoxicating liquor cannot be legalized without sin, and continues its unceasing battle against intoxicating liquors. Our church, from its very nature, stands at variance with the liquor traffic. For it to be silent in its opposition would be to be disloyal in its function. Therefore, to be true to itself, The Methodist Church must be militant in opposition to the liquor traffic.

Against the confused moral judgments of our age with respect to drinking and the liquor traffic, The Methodist Church lifts the clear voice of the Christian conscience. The teaching of Christ emphasizes, as one of its basic principles, the sacredness of each human personality. The use of alcoholic beverages impairs the functions of the body and mind. It slows perception and judgment. It delays reaction. It not only impairs physical health but, more important, impairs the tenderness of conscience. It deteriorates character. We are stewards of our bodies. We are stewards of an ability to think straight. Anything which blights and destroys human personality is fundamentally opposed to the gospel of Christ. We therefore stand for the Christian principle of total abstinence from the use of alcoholic beverages of any kind. Our people should regard abstinence as an essential part of witness to the faith we profess and as evidence of loyalty to the high ideals for which our church stands.

The use of alcoholic beverages violates the Christian principle that we are each our brother's keeper. We are stewards of our influence upon others. He who uses alcoholic beverages may by his example lay a stumbling block in the path of a brother and thus contribute to the destruction of another human personality. The influence of personal example is a sacred trust. For a Christian the use of intoxicating liquors

is a fundamental moral issue which must be determined in the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The drinking of alcoholic beverages is increasingly responsible for the disintegration of the home as witnessed by social service records and those of divorce court proceedings. It is a major cause of public disorder, disaster, and traffic injuries and fatalities. It causes poverty and produces economic waste in industry and commerce. It is a corrupting influence upon the conduct of public affairs. It is a most formidable obstacle to the good life.

Since human welfare decreases as the drinking of alcohol increases, we stand opposed to the continuation of the organized liquor traffic. The church must be vigorous in its opposition to it. The truth concerning the personal and social evils of alcohol has been clouded by the falsehoods cleverly presented in liquor advertising and propaganda.

We denounce the continued invasion of the American home by liquor advertisers who seek to indoctrinate even our children in the use of alcoholic beverages, through magazines, newspapers, radio, television, and other media. We deplore governmental toleration of this practice, and call on the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to prevent the use of radio, television, and other interstate means of advertising for such purposes.

We are deeply concerned over the growing practice of permitting the sale of alcoholic beverages through drug and grocery stores in a deliberate attempt to win the housewife as a customer. This practice also makes these beverages more accessible to minors.

We commend the secretary of defense for his action in prohibiting the sale of package liquors on most armed services installations. We urge the extension of this policy to include the outlawing of beer and liquor by the drink on all armed forces installations.

We commend those airlines that refuse to serve alcoholic beverages on their airplanes and request each of the other airlines to join in this voluntary policy. We also call on the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Congress to enact legislation to prohibit the serving of alcoholic beverages on airplanes. We request the railroads likewise to stop the serving of alcoholic beverages on trains.

Knowledge must always precede conviction, and without conviction there can be no successful social reform. We therefore, as a matter of major importance, call upon our churches vigorously to declare and teach the truth concerning the personal and social evils resulting from the use of alcoholic

beverages. To do this, we ask them to use and support the best methods of educational procedure in every agency of our church.

We urge and support education in our public schools regarding the harmful effects of the use of alcoholic beverages.

We recommend that organizations and institutions related to The Methodist Church refrain from accepting and printing advertisements for alcoholic beverages.

The Methodist Church takes the position that laws should be enacted controlling and prohibiting the traffic in alcohol. The right of the people to enact such legislation to protect their homes and communities is a fundamental legal and moral right. Adequate relief can come only through total abstinence for the individual and effective prohibition for the state.

We give our unqualified endorsement to the program of our Board of Temperance, which now centers around these four major emphases:

(1) *Positive education* for a life free from beverage alcohol. This is the heart of the board's total effort. It is a broad and comprehensive educational program designed to reach all Methodists and without it there can be no consistent and effective action for abstinence.

(2) *Commitment to abstinence* is a natural and logical outgrowth of commitment to Christ. The Board of Temperance encourages individuals to commit their lives to sobriety as an essential manifestation of their Christian faith.

(3) *Rehabilitation* of those who suffer because of beverage alcohol is clearly the obligation of all Christians. The board gives guidance to thousands of pastors and laymen who deal person-to-person with individuals and families seeking their help.

(4) *Legislation* as an effective means to outlaw beverage alcohol is a natural outgrowth of the concern of informed citizens. The board stimulates local, state, and national legislation to protect individuals, families, and communities from the pressures of the organized traffic in beverage alcohol.

2. *Corruption in Politics*.—We call attention to the fact that distressing corruption in the administration of public affairs is closely related to moral evil. The crimes of vice finance crimes of violence and institutionalize them. Our citizens should demand the most rigid integrity upon the part of public servants and should support this demand by full participation in public affairs. The great majority of public servants are not corrupt, but corruption to any degree must be regarded as a menace to political freedom.

3. *Narcotic Drugs*.—While alcohol is the narcotic drug

most far-reaching in its evil effects upon our people, traffic in the opiates such as heroin and marijuana has caused profound concern to all humane people. The distribution of the drugs ordinarily known as narcotics has recently become much more prevalent, with destructive results to the body, mind, and soul of many people, particularly those still in their formative years. We commend the efficiency of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, the state legislatures, and the various city police departments which have taken effective action, and we rejoice in the improvement which has resulted. This, however, gives no cause for complacency; Christian compassion demands a continuing and intelligent concern.

4. *Gambling*.—Gambling is a menace to business integrity; it breeds crime and is destructive of the interests of good government; it is in intimate relationship with vice and governmental corruption. As has been stated in the 1956 Episcopal Address, "The passion to get something for nothing, inflamed by widely publicized gambling schemes, has resulted in the undermining of the basic moral and economic laws of life." Constructive measures taken to disorganize this traffic in evil deserve warm approval and support from Christian citizens.

The dubious gains of petty gambling are neither needed nor wanted in financing the work of the church. All Methodist churches not only shall abstain from the use of raffles, lotteries, and other forms of games of chance in the raising of money for the purposes of the church (¶ 272) but should protest similar gambling practices by secular organizations in their communities.

5. *Tobacco*.—In the 1956 Episcopal Address the bishops of Methodism stated that the widespread use of tobacco now "not only confronts society with a serious health problem, but is also becoming an increasing danger as a fire hazard. Social amenities and personal courtesies often suffer through the thoughtlessness resulting from the dominant demands for the satisfaction of this habit-forming practice regardless of the comfort and rights of others."

We are deeply concerned over the increase in the use of tobacco, especially among youth, and we protest against the misleading and suggestive advertisements for the promotion of its sale.

In the interest of a larger Christian influence and service we issue our solemn warning to youth against all such deceptive propaganda and urge them to abstain from the use of tobacco in all its forms. We remind our adult membership that the principle of right example must be considered in regard to the use of tobacco.

We recommend that organizations and institutions related to The Methodist Church refrain from accepting and printing advertisements for tobacco.

¶ 2023. Abstinence Among Church Leaders

It is recommended that no member be nominated for or appointed to any official position in the church or church school who is not a morally disciplined person, with special reference to total abstinence from alcoholic beverages. (See ¶ 207.)

¶ 2024. World Order and International Peace

The role of the Church in today's world situation is clear. Its task is to help mankind attain freedom, human rights, justice, adequate living standards, self-government, and the co-operation of all nations for the maintenance of peace.

With the development of increasingly horrible weapons of mass destruction, mankind stands at the threshold of possible extinction. In the face of this situation, Christians everywhere are confronted with a definite challenge.

Motivated and mobilized by the spirit of Christ and challenged by world conditions, Christians are in a strategic position to make the gospel articulate in world affairs to the end that peace may become real and dynamic.

1. *The Individual and Peace.*—In the Episcopal Address of 1956 we read:

"The attainment of enduring peace is primarily a matter of knowledge and spirit. Wars continue, not because they are inevitable, but because the people 'do not know the ways of peace' and therefore have not aimed at 'whatever makes for peace.' We have educated society to live in a world of war and not in a world of peace, which explains why, when wars are won, the peace is so quickly lost."

The Methodist Church is in accord with the following expression of the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches of 1954 on "The Church and International Relations":

"Christians everywhere are committed to world peace as a goal. However, for them 'peace' means far more than mere 'absence of war'; it is characterized positively by freedom, justice, truth, and love. For such peace the Church must labor and pray."

We call upon individual Methodists to hold fast to the gospel of the Christ of peace. One of the foundations of a warless world finds its origin within the thinking of the individual

Christian. Hatred and prejudice must be overcome by love as the cementing bond of brotherhood. When the teachings of Jesus are fully accepted and implemented by virile, vigorous action, war as a means of settling international disputes will die. As war disappears, thereby setting the world free from the tyranny of destruction, man will be able to build anew, within a truly Christian structure, an environment of lasting freedom and peace.

2. *Moral and Spiritual Aspects of Peace.*—The primary conditions of peace lie in the attitudes of men. Since it holds in its keeping the moral and spiritual forces for a peaceful world, the Church has a unique and God-given responsibility. The position of The Methodist Church is made clear in the Social Creed, ¶ 2020 § F. Certainly the Church can be an agency of great power for the establishment of a world community, as has been demonstrated by the missionary and ecumenical movements. That the bonds of brotherhood among Christians have held so firm during the recent years of war and international tension is occasion for humble thanksgiving to God. From the beginnings already made, a wider world community must be fashioned through co-operation with persons of all religious faiths. To this ideal we dedicate ourselves unflinchingly.

3. *Man's Struggle Toward Self-Government.*—Since World War II there has been a surge toward self-government and self-determination on the part of subject peoples. Old imperialisms are breaking up. Colonial and dependent territories are seeking freedom and political independence. These affected peoples are struggling for the knowledge, the tools, and the skills necessary to provide themselves with a standard of living designed to alleviate hunger, disease, exposure, and ignorance. They are seeking, and many have already gained, a new status in the family of nations.

We reaffirm the Christian's undying interest in freedom and self-government for all people. We urge all governments to support the aspirations of non-self-governing peoples through such educational, medical, and technical aid as may assist them to gain independence and to set up stable democratic governments and Christian social practices for themselves.

4. *Mankind Comprises One Family.*—We believe that all peoples, irrespective of color, race, caste, creed, or national origin, are one family of God's creation. Differences within this family may exist according to individual circumstances, but we commend to all of us, as children of God, diligence in understanding the conditions confronting our brothers of all lands and dedicated earnestness in applying ourselves toward

helping them achieve and maintain harmony and understanding one of the other.

5. *Opposition to Materialistic Ideologies.*—The Christian religion stands in direct opposition to materialistic ideologies prevalent in many places in the world. These ideologies, with their disregard for human rights, their scorn for the dignity of the individual, and their failure to acknowledge the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Man, are abhorrent to basic Christian principles.

We believe the best defense against these materialistic ideologies is found in the preservation and growth of Christian democratic institutions and in the daily practice of the Christian way of life. We believe that such growth and practice provide powerful stimulus to the elimination, as rapidly as possible, of: (a) racial and class distinction; (b) economic conditions which cause hunger, disease, and ignorance for large segments of the human race; and (c) the political suppression of human rights.

We believe that Christian concern for the physical and spiritual welfare of all people will promote unselfish sharing of essential goods and the values of life which God has so lavishly provided. Such sharing will give great impetus to the elimination of the basic causes of war.

6. *Implementing World Peace.*—Peace is the gift of God, but it is appropriated by man only through the practice of love and co-operation. The peace of God cannot be contained within any one nation, economic system, or religion. To be a stable and lasting reality it must become universal.

No one nation or group of nations, pitted against other nations, can initiate or maintain world peace. It can only be the result of understanding, forbearance, and co-operation on the part of all nations.

We give thanks to God for the United Nations and its agencies, and their continued efforts to create peace in the world. Particularly do we commend the United Nations for its direct approach, exploration, and action on crucial problems that arise periodically throughout the world and pose a direct threat to the peace of the world. We are extremely grateful, too, for the enlightened political leaders and representatives of various individual nations who so courageously share their part of the responsibility for world peace.

We believe there is continuing and urgent need to use more fully the various agencies of international understanding and co-operation which are presently available in the United Nations. We believe the United Nations and its agencies should be supported, strengthened, and improved. Moreover,

if these facilities are to become most effective, the United Nations, with membership open to all nations, must be given sufficient authority to enact, interpret, and enforce world law against aggression and war.

We call upon the government of the United States to expand its leadership in an effort to bring about such charter revisions as are necessary to facilitate the work of the United Nations in maintaining international order and in preventing the outbreak of war.

We recognize, however, that it is upon the Church that the major responsibility for guiding the world toward lasting peace rests. The Church can, and should, reach directly into the hearts of individuals of all nations. Political leaders are often blind to the fears of insecurity, poverty, destruction, and war with which so much of mankind is enshrouded.

We believe that the Church, through its genuine concern for every man regardless of race, color, or national origin, and through the compassionate love of the Lord Jesus Christ, can effectively disintegrate these man-made barriers to understanding and brotherhood so essential to world peace.

7. *Universal Disarmament.*—The necessity for universal disarmament is urgently apparent.

Jesus said, "They that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Translated into terms of the current world problem, a continued program of competitive armaments by the major blocs of world powers leads toward financial bankruptcy and the irrecoverable dissolution of material and power, if not to the abyss of mutual annihilation.

The menace of the arms race is recognized by the disarmament proposals made by the United States in terms of a system of aerial inspection and by Russia in terms of strategically located inspection teams. The fact that the proposals of one nation may not be satisfactory to the other must not discourage us from insisting on the continuous search for mutually satisfactory bases for universal disarmament and the hearty approval of all efforts made in the councils of the nations toward that end. Nor need it deter any nation from creating and announcing to the world a definite plan for progressive disarmament as an invitation for other nations to participate in it.

The vision of what can be done constructively to lift the level of the life of the world with the money now being expended for stockpiles of military preparations in men and materiel, should we find the way to alleviate this military financial burden, is a further incentive for our untiring effort.

An even greater cost of war is represented by the tragic

sacrifice of human life. This, indeed, is the greatest cost of all. We cannot estimate the leadership in the arts, sciences, and humanities which has been lost to our civilization through the grim toll of conflict. War indeed must cease, and universal disarmament is the prime and potent factor toward that end.

Of this we are sure, that we cannot achieve any permanent disarmament apart from a fundamental agreement among the nations subject to enforceable international authority.

We therefore affirm as the imperative goal for the effort of all nations a universal disarmament through the United Nations. We urge all Methodists to keep themselves informed on the progress of the nations toward this gateway to peace and to let their representatives in government know of their determination that a solution to this universal problem must be found.

Because of possible deleterious hereditary effects of atomic radiation and the reported miscalculations on a previous hydrogen bomb test, we urge discontinuance of nuclear explosions by all nations and recommend, instead, the further development of atomic energy for peaceful uses.

8. *The Individual and Military Training.*—We believe our task to be the revelation of the message of Jesus of Nazareth—a message of love, of healing, of reconciliation, and of the removal of prejudice and hatred. We find the utilization of war as a method of settling international issues unacceptable in theory and practice.

We believe it is the task of every nation to develop and utilize existing processes for the attainment of a peaceful settlement of international disputes. The Methodist Church dedicates itself to lend every assistance to government for the attainment of this goal.

We reaffirm traditional Methodist opposition to any system of peacetime universal military training. We appeal to the United States to give bold leadership looking toward the universal abolition of peacetime conscription by or through the United Nations.

Regarding the duty of the individual Christian, opinions sincerely differ. Faced by the dilemma of participation in war, he must decide prayerfully before God what is to be his course of action in relation thereto. What the Christian citizen may not do is to obey men rather than God, or overlook the degree of compromise in our best acts, or gloss over the sinfulness of war. The Church must hold within its fellowship persons who sincerely differ at this point of critical decision, call all to repentance, mediate to all God's mercy, minister to all in Christ's name.

We believe it is our obligation to render every assistance to the individual who conscientiously objects to service in the military forces. He should receive counsel concerning his rights in this respect, assistance in bringing his claim before the proper authorities, and support in securing recognition thereof.

Thousands of our sons and daughters have, with sincere Christian conscience, responded to the call for service in the military forces. We are obligated to provide pre-induction counseling and educational material prepared by the related agencies of the church, such as the Board of Education, the Methodist Youth Fellowship, etc. This material should be directed toward the wise use of leisure time and the challenge to Christlike living during their military service. We believe particular emphasis should be directed to the serviceman's bearing a good witness for Christ, the Church, and the nation while on duty outside his country.

In meeting these obligations we reiterate our unswerving opposition to the principle of militarism and any dependence for security upon the sword alone.

We call upon local Methodist churches to enlist the interest of, and to offer hospitality to, the men and women of the armed services who are stationed in or near their communities. We further recommend that the home pastors of those young people who have entered military service urge them to continue their active church affiliation and participation in the Methodist churches nearest the points they may be assigned.

9. *Technical Assistance and Foreign Aid.*—We sincerely acknowledge the liberal contribution of the United States and other countries for food and other material resources together with technical assistance to benefit the underdeveloped areas of the world.

We believe that economic assistance, which seeks to make the benefits of scientific advance and industrial progress available for the improvement of underdeveloped areas is an example of both Christian love and practical international brotherhood.

We urge that the United Nations Program of Technical Assistance and the United States Program of Foreign Aid (Point IV) be supported hereafter on a long-range rather than an annual basis. Necessary safeguards to ensure against such aid being used for either military or political expediency should be provided. Study should be continued to determine the areas of greatest need for distribution, and the agencies through which the distribution should be made (with consid-

eration given to the Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development).

Personnel employed in these projects should be of the highest character and should ever seek, through the implementation of the aid program, to develop better human relations as well as better economic conditions.

We also commend and urge increased support of technical assistance by denominational and interdenominational programs as well as by private foundations and agencies.

10. *Civil Liberties.*—The American Declaration of Independence declares that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are the inalienable rights of every human being. This implies that these rights are not the gifts of governments, but the gifts of God. Civil governments exist, not to confer these rights, but to guarantee them to all men alike and to protect all men in the fullest possible enjoyment of them. The right to be free implies not only the freedom of the body but the freedom of the mind.

In this time of fear, areas of freedom of speech and thought are being narrowed all over the world. Everywhere there is increasing limitation of the expression of variant ideas and opinions, and even of factual information. Thought control uses the techniques of absolute censorship, surveillance by secret police, torture, imprisonment, and death. Other techniques are those of social rejection, calling of names, demands for "loyalty oaths," denial of employment, irresponsible accusations, and assertion of "guilt by association."

In any of these cases the results are false and inadequate information, degradation of the human mind, and shackling of the human spirit. In such an atmosphere suspicion becomes fear, fear becomes hatred, and hatred becomes war. Our role is not to suppress ideas, but to open channels of communication so that men can come to know the thoughts of their neighbors, and so that the best thoughts of all men can come to be possessions of all mankind.

We who are Christians profess that Christ came to demonstrate the character of God and reveal that God is love. Love is the power of God at work in human relations. Against such power no earthly barriers can stand, no earthly armies ultimately can prevail. This power can be ours. We need only dare to use it.

¶ 2025.

Loyalty Oaths

We protest legislation requiring the loyalty oath of any church to any state or nation. The Church must be in the world but not of it. She belongs to no class, nation, or race.

She belongs to Christ. The Church cannot serve two masters. She can obey but one, Jesus Christ. The Church must be free to bring all persons and institutions under the judgment of the gospel. In so far as the state is righteous, it has nothing to fear from the Church. In loyalty to her Lord the Church will be its grave and sturdy ally. But in so far as a state seeks to dominate, the Church must resist. Freedom is secure and justice is maintained only as the Church lives and works among men, not as a creature subservient to the state, but as a free, unintimidated voice, speaking for Almighty God in opposition to error and evil, and in support of truth and righteousness.

¶ 2026. **The Methodist Church and Race**

The teaching of our Lord is that all men are brothers. The Master permits no discrimination because of race, color, or national origin.

The position of The Methodist Church, long held and frequently declared, is an amplification of our Lord's teaching. "To discriminate against a person solely upon the basis of his race is both unfair and unchristian. Every child of God is entitled to that place in society which he has won by his industry and his character. To deny him that position of honor because of the accident of his birth is neither honest democracy nor good religion." (The Episcopal Address, 1952 and 1956.)

There must be no place in The Methodist Church for racial discrimination or enforced segregation. Recognizing that we have not attained this goal, yet rejoicing in the progress made, we recommend that discrimination or segregation by any method or practice, whether by conference structure or otherwise, in The Methodist Church be abolished with reasonable speed. The growing spirit of brotherhood throughout the church strengthens our confidence that, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to go forward.

There is a changing racial climate in our world, largely growing out of the teachings of the Christian Church. The conscience of society has become increasingly sensitive regarding racial discrimination and injustice. Methodists unite with people of all lands and all faiths in a determined effort to eliminate these unchristian practices. We look to the ultimate establishment of a truly Christian society.

The decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States relative to segregation make necessary far-reaching and often difficult community readjustments throughout the nation. We

call upon our people to effect these adjustments in all good faith, with brotherliness and patience. In doing this all racial groups must be willing to admit their imperfections and seek to correct them. Let these things, however, be done in love lest the cause of Christ suffer at our hands.

It is our desire to accomplish the realization of Christian brotherhood and full participation by all in every aspect of the church's life. We join other people of good will around the world in moving toward the day when all races shall share richly without discrimination or segregation in the good things of life. Therefore, we resolutely go forward with the work begun with respect to race relations in the church and in our world.

In this spirit, we recommend the following:

1. That the institutions of the church, local churches, colleges, universities, theological schools, publishing agencies, hospitals, and homes carefully restudy their policies and practices as they relate to race, making certain that these policies and practices are Christian.

2. That Methodists in their homes, in their work, in their churches, and in their communities actively work to eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. That parents, teachers, and others who work with children and youth help create attitudes which make it easy to live in harmony with those of other races.

3. That Methodist churches in changing neighborhoods, rather than seeking new locations, early prepare their people to welcome into their fellowship all races as they become a part of their community.

That our pastors, upon whom rests the responsibility of receiving individuals into church membership discharge that responsibility without regard to race, color, or national origin.

4. That bishops, district superintendents, pastors, and lay leaders seek ways for the implementation of better fraternal relations between the Central Jurisdiction and other jurisdictions where they are adjacent, by closer co-operation at Annual and District Conferences, and at local-church levels.

5. That Methodists at national and international meetings of the church make provision for equality of accommodations for all races, without discrimination or segregation.

6. That the many racial and national groups which make up our Methodist world fellowship be afforded the opportunity without discrimination to enjoy full participation in all the activities of the church.

¶ 2027. Church-School Literature and Quadrennial Emphasis

Our church-school literature serves the church in ways vital to its life and work, and therefore it should be used in every church school.

The increasing effectiveness of our literature is indicated by the fact that during the last quadrennium there has been an increase in circulation of 780,000, so that the present average circulation is 6,800,000.

Some of the values of our literature are as follows:

1. It nurtures the spiritual life and character.
2. It confronts men and society with the need of redemption through Christ Jesus.
3. It challenges to commitment to Christ and to the practice of his spirit and teachings in everyday life.
4. It sets forth the historic Christian faith as understood and proclaimed by Methodism.
5. It requires extensive use of the Bible as the source of our faith and practice.
6. It undergirds all church-wide programs authorized by the General Conference.
7. It makes provision for every age group in every type of church.
8. Its effectiveness depends upon consecrated teachers willing to study faithfully and to seek training.

Its use will be an effective instrument in the promotion of the emphases of the coming quadrennium.

¶ 2028. Religion and the Public Schools

The Methodist Church is committed to the public school as the most effective means of providing common education for all our children. We hold that it is an institution essential to the preservation and development of our true democracy. But our public schools are hard pressed. Public tax funds, in increasing sums, are diverted to sectarian schools. Opponents of the public schools call the schools "Godless" while at the same time legal restrictions are placed upon the recognition of religion in the schools. It is time for the friends of the public schools to be alert to this situation and to be active in their support.

We desire to co-operate with educational leaders in achieving the highest functioning of the American public school system in terms of the intellectual and moral development of the pupils and the enrichment of the national life. We therefore call upon our people: (1) to acquaint themselves with

the program and problems of the public school and to do all they can to encourage and strengthen the work of teachers and administrators, and (2) to present to our ablest youth the spiritual and public-service opportunities of public school teaching as a vocation.

We are unalterably opposed to the diversion of tax funds to the support of private and sectarian schools. In a short time this scattering process can destroy our American public school system and weaken the foundations of national unity.

We believe that religion has a rightful place in the public school program, and that it is possible for public school teachers, without violating the traditional American principle of separation of church and state, to teach moral principles and spiritual values. We hold that it is possible, within this same principle of separation of church and state, to integrate religious instruction with the regular curriculum—for example, teaching religious classics in courses in literature, and in social studies showing the influence of religion upon our society. Such teaching would afford a background for further and more specific instruction on the part of home and church. The home and church must carry the chief responsibility for nurturing vital faith which motivates life, but the home and church must have the support of our public schools. Our society must discover the techniques within the principle of separation of church and state by which that support can be achieved.

1929. Call to Evangelism

Evangelism is the heart of the Church. If it is sound, all that is the Body of Christ is athrob with vital power. If it is strong, every concern and activity which belongs to the Body of Christ is carried forward with competence.

We believe the Church has arrived at an hour of supreme opportunity. This is true in terms of unprecedented population growth, especially in the United States of America. Present trends indicate there will be a net gain of more than 63,000,000 in this country in the next twenty years. This of itself calls for an intensive and extensive program in evangelism which will result in the establishment of thousands of new churches, the recruiting and training of thousands of new ministers, and the reaching of millions of unchurched persons for Christ and his Church.

The Church's opportunity rises even more urgently from the total world situation and from issues of far greater import than population expansion. In this respect, when has Jesus Christ stood more tall against the skyline of past

events and future needs? When have men been more willing to give him a hearing? When has the world been more in need of him? Where is the salvation to compare with the new men and new world which can be born through him?

Devotees of economic and political secularism in our times, whether of the right or left, would correct evil and create justice by external law and coercion. Indeed, they ignore or deny the existence of a God who alone can do this. So even the good they would do is destroyed in the end by the evil which abides unconquered in their hearts.

Salvation gained through Christ begins within. Christianity conquers evil and creates goodness first within the heart and mind. It links men with the love, power, and wisdom of God. Then through men whose hearts God has cleansed, whose thoughts God directs, and whose deeds God empowers, Christianity conquers evil and establishes the good.

Only Christlike people working under the empowerment and direction of a Christlike God can create and sustain a world which can long exist in this Atomic Era.

Let it be understood, events of these turbulent times will not wait patiently for our convenience. The world has been in the forge of great travail. It now is upon the anvil, flaming hot. It is soft and malleable. Almost anything can be made of it, from paradise beyond our dreams to hell more hideous than our worst fears. For a few fleeting years we are the man at the anvil. Soon the metal will harden and what we have made, we have made.

While strategy for wise and co-ordinated endeavor in the local church, a denomination, and throughout Christendom must be a constant concern, the major responsibility for meeting this evangelistic opportunity rests upon the personal response of each Christian in his opportunity to be a witness.

People ask, "What is the answer to the menace of modern Communism, the decay of secularism, the threat of American jingoism? What is the way to sanity and hope? What can remedy the sickness now threatening civilization with death?"

For those who know Jesus Christ there is a sane and conquering answer. For them it is not fearful withdrawals behind shrill denunciations of Communism nor cautious protests against American materialism. It is a bold and practical action which operates at the grass roots, which overcomes weeds by planting something better. It is the unending, ever-increasing, irresistible impact of every Christian doing what he can where he is as a witness in life and word for Jesus Christ.

Without a witness truth is impotent. It has neither feet

nor voice. It may be buried under ignorance, shunned through indifference, forgotten in silence, lost in superstition, betrayed by rumor. It has no vital life, no way to reach and rule the minds of men. It is helpless, captive.

It is the witness who sets truth free, gives it legs to stride the globe, a voice to recruit obedience. The witness liberates truth, lets it become the incandescence of wisdom, the tool of science, a dynamic for morality, the foundation for faith, even the hand of God.

Thus the last request made by our Lord of his friends was, "Be my witnesses." Even before they were first called Christians, they had another name, witnesses! The New Testament, the Church, indeed all Christian history from that day to this, is the evidence of Christians at work as witnesses.

So the Christian Church was born in a dying world among doomed men. During centuries when the best harvest of all that mankind had achieved in millennia past sickened and perished, there emerged in the providence of God a new and mighty mother for a new and nobler culture. Those first friends of our Lord, in obedience to his request, brought new life to doomed men. Of their witnessing a new humanity was born, a new world established.

So the saving truth revealed by Jesus Christ has lived and grown through the centuries. Empires have risen and fallen. But that truth has lived on. It has traversed the centuries and spanned the continents because always there were valiant hearts whose lips gave it voice, whose feet gave it transport, whose lives gave it authority. By witnesses it came to us. By witnesses it lives and works among us in redeeming power today.

As our Lord trusted his first friends, so he trusts us. Upon us rests even a greater debt of honor. As their witness was needed by doomed men in a dying world, no less is ours. As obedience to their responsibility lifted their little lives into significance far beyond their imagining, so may we be lifted.

We who wish to be known as the friends of Jesus Christ have our chance now. The Church has arrived at the hour of unsurpassed opportunity. If we believe in him and will serve him, the time is now! "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

¶ 2030. Church and Community Co-operation in Town and Country

It is in active participation in the life of the local community that an individual becomes a unit in our total society.

Because of this, the church should assign its pastors and plan its program to serve the total parish area. The stronger town church and the adjacent rural churches should work together to meet the needs of the area. This gives an adequate basis for circuit, parish, and group ministry plans.

An effective denominational church serving every rural community is our primary objective. Federated and union churches have given good temporary service in some fields; but they should become part of a denomination within two or three years. Mutual exchange, denominational withdrawal, and affiliated membership are among the methods found helpful. Denominational overlapping and excessive competition in overchurched areas should be corrected. We support allocation of denominational responsibility in new fields, in order to avoid each denomination establishing a church for its own constituency. We would name the state council of churches, wherever possible, as the agency through which this allocation is made.

The *group ministry* is a voluntary plan of co-operation and association of churches in a natural geographic or political area to make better use of ministerial and lay leaders. A council composed of ministerial and lay representatives from each church is the usual form of organization. This ministry may be organized either denominationally or interdenominationally.

The *larger parish* is usually organized with one minister as chairman. He directs the work of a staff of specialized workers. The parish is guided by a council made up of representatives elected by the co-operating churches. The purpose of the larger parish is to serve effectively the entire constituency of the area through the sharing of leadership, resources, and information. This sharing can greatly aid the work of the church in a given community or group of communities. The larger parish may be either denominational or interdenominational.

The *Parish Area*. A clear designation of parish boundaries is necessary in order that there may be pastoral responsibility for every family within a parish, and in order to avoid duplication of effort and competition between Methodist churches.

¶ 2031. The Healing Ministry of Jesus

In his ministry Jesus not only taught and preached the gospel; he exemplified it by healing the sick and helping the needy. The New Testament states that "Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and

preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every sickness." Among the instructions which he gave the twelve, as he sent them forth, were these: "Preach . . . Heal the sick . . . : freely ye have received, freely give." In the parable of the good Samaritan he pointed out that one's love of God is incomplete until it finds expression in relieving human distress.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, insisted that our Christian faith, if it is to be vital, must include compassionate service to our needy fellow men.

In the light of Jesus' many admonitions and examples and their re-emphasis by John Wesley, The Methodist Church affirms that God has laid upon his people the obligation to care for the sick, the aged, and children in distress, and that to accomplish this purpose hospitals and homes should be established and supported by the church.

The church has a divine mission to meet human need. As our brother's keeper we have a moral obligation to ease suffering. Persons in every walk of life realize the importance of good health and welfare, and this has been strongly emphasized by the United Nations through the establishment of the World Health Organization and other departments with welfare interests and responsibilities. This alone is positive testimony that world leaders recognize that care must be given to people of all ages in all circumstances. We cannot, as a church, neglect our responsibility to help God's children, because the health and welfare of our nation—and our world—affects every living person.

¶ 2032. World Federation of Methodist Women

The World Federation of Methodist Women is recognized as an agency to unite the women of the Methodist churches around the world for fellowship in the purpose of knowing Christ and making him known. (See ¶ 568.)

CHAPTER VII

COURSES OF STUDY FOR MINISTERIAL TRAINING

¶ 2041. General Directions

1. The courses of study are administered by the director of in-service training at the Correspondence Office, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn. Inquiries should be sent to this address.

2. The present list of courses is valid until after the first session of the Annual Conference following the 1960 General Conference.

3. It is recommended that these courses be taken in an approved pastors' school. If this is not possible, they may be taken through the Correspondence Office.

4. Guidebooks for the courses are published under the titles *Studies for License to Preach*, *Introductory Studies for the Ministry*, and *Student's Handbook for Correspondence Work* (covering the four-year course of ¶¶ 2045-48). The student should read the instructions in these guides before preparing his examination on each book, and should follow them carefully. All examinations must be in writing, without any aid from another. The student should complete at least one book each month.

5. Passing a written examination on the five books in ¶ 2043 is required for license to preach (¶ 306). The examination may be given by the District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications (¶ 695) or by the Correspondence Office, as the district superintendent may direct.

6. Completion of the introductory studies for the ministry (¶ 2044) is required for: (a) admission on trial into the Annual Conference under the terms of ¶ 325 § 2; (b) authorization for an unordained approved supply pastor to perform ministerial functions as set forth in ¶ 318. Note that for annual renewal of this authorization there is required continuing progress either in a regular academic program or in the studies of ¶¶ 2045-48. (See ¶ 318.)

7. Completion of the studies of the first and second years (¶¶ 2045-46) is required for election to deacon's orders under the terms of ¶ 393 §§ 2-4.

8. Completion of the studies of all four years (¶¶ 2045-48) is required for: (a) admission on trial into the Annual Conference under the terms of ¶ 325 § 2; (b) admission into full connection in the Annual Conference under the terms of ¶ 343 §§ 1, 3; (c) election to elder's orders under the terms of ¶ 403 §§ 2-4.

9. The asterisks in the following lists mark the studies of Methodist history, polity, and doctrine required of theological graduates who have not completed equivalent work, as provided in ¶ 344.

10. Unless enrolled in accredited schools as specified in ¶ 307 § 1, ¶ 317 § 1, ¶ 323, and ¶ 342, both local preachers, including approved supply pastors, and members on trial must make continuing progress in these courses of study, ac-

cording to the schedules set forth in ¶ 307 § 2, ¶ 317 §§ 2-3, and ¶ 330, in order to maintain their status.

11. Credit in these courses is allowed for equivalent theological work under the terms of ¶ 327.

12. Each candidate for the traveling ministry is urged to make early contact with the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications of his Annual Conference, for consultation about his educational plans. Note that many colleges and schools of theology are not accredited or approved by the University Senate as required in ¶¶ 323-25, 342.

¶ 2043. Studies for License to Preach

The Bible; Books of Luke and Acts

MARTIN, WILLIAM C.: *To Fulfill This Ministry*

*LEE, UMPHREY: *The Lord's Horseman*

*THOMAS, G. ERNEST: *How to Live Your Faith*

**Doctrines and Discipline of The Methodist Church*, Parts I, II, III, X

¶ 2044. Introductory Studies for the Ministry

*HARMON, NOLAN B.: *Understanding The Methodist Church*

BLAIR, EDWARD P.: *The Bible and You*

HARKNESS, GEORGIA: *Understanding the Christian Faith*

JOWETT, JOHN H.: *The Preacher, His Life and Work*

GOODLOE, ROBERT W.: *The Sacraments in Methodism*

PHILLIPS, J. B.: *Appointment with God*

¶ 2045. Studies of the First Year

The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. I:

"The Study of the Bible"

"The Literature of the Old Testament"

"The History of Israel"

"The Canon of the Old Testament"

"The Faith of Israel"

The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. VII:

"Palestine"

"The Life and Ministry of Jesus"

"The Sermon on the Mount"

"The Parables"

"A Guide for Bible Readers" series:

HICKS, J. H.: *The Books of History*

SHROYER, M. J.: *The Synoptic Gospels*

JONES, ILION T.: *Principles and Practice of Preaching*

NAGLER, ARTHUR WILFORD: *The Church in History*

SOPER, EDMUND D.: *The Religions of Mankind* (3rd ed.)

SEIDENSPINNER, CLARENCE: *A Protestant Primer*

CROSSLAND, WELDON: *A Planned Program for the Church Year*

KENNEDY, GERALD: *With Singleness of Heart*

BRYAN, DAWSON C.: *Building Church Membership Through Evangelism*

HARMON, NOLAN B.: *Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette*

¶ 2046. Studies of the Second Year

The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. I:

"The Old Testament World"

"The Prophetic Literature"

"The History of the Religion of Israel"

"The English Bible"

The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. VII:

"The Greco-Roman World"

"The Life of Paul"

"Paul the Apostle"

"The Language of the New Testament"

The Abingdon Bible Commentary:

"Bible Manners and Customs"

"A Guide for Bible Readers" series:

CHANTER, WILLIAM G.: *The Prophets*

BARNETT, ALBERT E.: *The Letters of Paul*

BAINTON, ROLAND H.: *Here I Stand*

*RALL, HARRIS FRANKLIN: *Religion as Salvation*

POWELL, ROBERT R.: *Improving Your Church School*

EAKIN, MILDRED M. and FRANK: *The Church-School Teacher's Job*

GARRISON, WEBB B.: *The Preacher and His Audience*

JOHNSON, PAUL E.: *Psychology of Pastoral Care*

PIKE, JAMES A.: *Doing the Truth: A Summary of Christian Ethics*

¶ 2047. Studies of the Third Year

The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. I:

"The Growth of the Hexateuch"

"The Literature and Religion of the Apocrypha"

"The Literature and Religion of the Pseudepigrapha"

The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. VII:

"The History of the Early Church: The Beginnings"

"The New Testament and Early Christian Literature"

"The Growth of the Gospels"

"The Gospel in the New Testament"

- The Abingdon Bible Commentary:*
 "The Old Testament and Science"
 "A Guide for Bible Readers" series:
 WILLIAMS, WALTER G.: *The Books of the Law*
 BLAIR, EDWARD: *The Acts and Apocalyptic Literature*
 *LUCCOCK, H. E.; HUTCHINSON, PAUL; and GOODLOE, R. W.:
The Story of Methodism
 **Doctrines and Discipline of The Methodist Church*, Parts
 IV-IX
 *HARMON, NOLAN B.: *The Organization of The Methodist
 Church*
 *McCONNELL, FRANCIS J.: *John Wesley*
 DEWOLF, L. HAROLD: *A Theology of the Living Church*
 ROLSTON, HOLMES: *Stewardship in the New Testament
 Church*
 LUCCOCK, HALFORD E.: *In the Minister's Workshop*
The Book of Worship for Church and Home
 PALMER, ALBERT W.: *The Art of Conducting Public Worship*

¶ 2048. Studies of the Fourth Year

- The Interpreter's Bible*, Vol. I:
 "The Wisdom Literature"
 "History of the Interpretation of the Bible"
 "Text and Ancient Versions of the New Testament"
 "The Bible: Its Significance and Authority"
 "The Canon of the New Testament"
The Interpreter's Bible, Vol. VII:
 "The Proclamation of the Kingdom"
 "The Post-Apostolic Age"
The Abingdon Bible Commentary:
 "The Use of the Bible in Preaching"
 "A Guide for Bible Readers" series:
 LESLIE, ELMER A.: *Poetry and Wisdom*
 KNOX, JOHN: *The Fourth Gospel and the Later Epistles*
 SMITH, ROCKWELL C.: *The Church in Our Town* (rev. ed.)
 SHIPPKY, FREDRICK A.: *Church Work in the City*
 KENNEDY, GERALD: *His Word Through Preaching*
 Manuals for Training for Church Membership:
 HARTMAN, WILLIAM EMORY: *Membership Manual of The
 Methodist Church for Pastors*
 JONES, MARY ALICE: *Membership Manual of The Method-
 ist Church for Boys and Girls*
 RUMBLE, LILLA BAGLEY: *Membership Manual of The Meth-
 odist Church for Teen-Agers*

- CHUBB, JAMES S.: *Membership Manual of The Methodist
 Church for Young People and Adults*
 SPANN, J. RICHARD (ed.): *The Church and Social Responsi-
 bility*
 BURROWS, MILLAR: *An Outline of Biblical Theology*
 SEIFERT, HARVEY: *The Church in Community Action*
 MURPHY, BONNEAU PERNELL: *The Building and Care of
 Methodist Church Property*

CHAPTER VIII

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

¶ 2100.

This glossary is published for the convenience of the reader. The definitions here given do not constitute the law of the church, but are based on that law as stated in the Constitution and statutes in the Discipline or, where no specific legislation covers the subject, on accepted practice.

Appointment. The pastoral charge or other position in the church to which a preacher is assigned by a bishop or, between sessions of the Annual Conference, by a district superintendent. (¶¶ 362 § 3, 431-33.)

Apportionment. An amount assigned to a local church or other Methodist body by proper church authority to be raised by that body for some connectional purpose.

Approved supply pastor. A local preacher who on recommendation of the Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications has been approved by the Annual Conference as eligible for appointment during the ensuing year as a supply pastor of a charge. (¶¶ 314-20.) See Supply pastor.

Area, episcopal. The Annual Conference or Conferences assigned to a bishop for residential and presidential supervision. (¶¶ 37, 38, 440, 2102-3.)

Baptism, adult (youth). Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism to those who present themselves and, after instruction, personally take the vows set forth in the Ritual. (¶¶ 1911-12.)

Baptism, child. Administration of the Sacrament of Baptism to infants or young children whose parents, guardians, or sponsors present them and take on their behalf the vows set forth in the Ritual. (¶¶ 1910.)

Bishop. A general superintendent of The Methodist Church. He is an elder who has been set apart after the manner prescribed in the Discipline for that office. (¶¶ 34-41.)

Cabinet. The district superintendents of an Annual Conference acting together as a body under the presidency of the bishop.

Charge, pastoral. One or more churches which are organized under, and subject to, the Discipline, with a single pastoral-charge Quarterly Conference, and to which a minister is or may be duly appointed or appointable as preacher in charge. (¶ 104.)

Church, local. A connectional society of persons who have professed their faith in Christ, have been baptized, have assumed the vows of membership in The Methodist Church, and are associated in fellowship as a local Methodist church in order that they may hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments, and carry forward the work which Christ has committed to his Church. Such a society of believers, being within The Methodist Church and subject to its Discipline, is also an inherent part of the Church Universal, which is composed of all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and which in the Apostles' Creed we declare to be the holy catholic Church. (¶ 102.)

Circuit. Two or more local churches which are joined together for pastoral supervision, constituting one pastoral charge. (¶ 104.)

College of Bishops. All the bishops assigned to or elected by a Jurisdictional or Central Conference.

Conference, Annual. The basic administrative body in The Methodist Church, having supervision over the affairs of the church in a specific territory, as established by the Jurisdictional or Central Conference. (¶¶ 21-25.) Also, the territory administered by such a body.

Conference, Central. A representative body outside the United States of America comparable to a Jurisdictional Conference within the United States. (¶¶ 16-19.)

Conference, Church. An assembly of the members of a charge or church for review and planning of the church's work, for action on matters requiring a vote of the church membership, and, when so authorized by the Quarterly Conference, for election of church officers. (¶¶ 33, 196-200.)

Conference, District. An assembly held annually in each district where authorized by the Annual Conference. It includes lay and ministerial representatives from each local church (¶ 687) and performs the duties assigned to it. (¶¶ 689-91, 695.)

Conference, General. The legislative body for the entire church, meeting every four years, and having full legislative powers over all connectional matters. It is composed of elected representatives, ministerial and lay, from all the Annual Conferences. (¶¶ 5-10.)

Conference, Jurisdictional. The representative body in the United States, established by the Plan of Union, composed of ministerial and lay delegates from the several Annual Conferences of a jurisdiction, and meeting every four years. It elects the bishops and certain members of the general boards of the church. (¶¶ 11-15.)

Conference, Quarterly. The governing body of the pastoral charge. (¶¶ 137-50.) A Church Quarterly Conference is a body similarly constituted in each local church of a circuit, with authority limited to control of the property of the local church. (¶¶ 152-54, 158.)

Connectional. Of or pertaining to the general organization or functioning of The Methodist Church other than on a local-church basis.

Council of Bishops. All the bishops of all the Jurisdictional and Central Conferences of the church. (¶ 36.)

Credentials. The official documents certifying to ministerial ordination.

Deacon. A person who, having fulfilled the requirements, has been elected to the order of deacon by an Annual Conference, has taken the vows prescribed, and has been duly ordained by the laying on of the hands of a bishop. (¶¶ 391-93.)

Deacon, local. A local preacher who has been ordained deacon.

Deaconess. A woman who has been led by the Holy Spirit to devote herself to Christlike service under the direction of the Church, and who, having met the requirements, has been duly licensed, consecrated, and commissioned by a bishop. (¶ 1252.)

Disciplinary. In accordance with the Constitution and laws of The Methodist Church, as set forth in the Discipline.

Discipline. The official and published statement of the Constitution and laws of The Methodist Church, its rules of organization and procedure, the description of administrative agencies and their functions and the Ritual.

District. The major administrative subdivision of an Annual Conference, established by the Annual Conference and formed by the bishop. It comprises a number of pastoral charges and

is under the supervision of a district superintendent. (§ 431 § 3.)

District superintendent. A member of an Annual Conference in the effective relation who is appointed by the bishop to travel through his district, in order to preach and to oversee the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church. (§§ 361-62.)

Elder. A person who, having fulfilled the requirements, has been elected to the order of elder by an Annual Conference, has taken the vows prescribed, and has been duly ordained by the laying on of the hands of a bishop and other elders. (§ 401-3.) This is the second and higher ministerial order in the church.

Elder, local. A local preacher who has been ordained elder.

Itinerancy. The system by which The Methodist Church moves its ministers from church to church so that every preacher has a church and every church has a preacher.

Judicial Council. The final court of appeal in The Methodist Church, elected by the General Conference. It determines, on appeal, the constitutionality of any act of a General, Jurisdictional, or Central Conference, and exercises other judicial functions as set forth in the Discipline. (§§ 901-18.)

Jurisdiction. A major division of The Methodist Church in the United States as established by the Plan of Union, composed of several Annual Conferences, and under the administration of a Jurisdictional Conference. (§§ 11-15, 26.) See Conference, Jurisdictional.

NOTE: When the organization into jurisdictions was introduced at the time of Unification in 1939, there was uncertainty whether such a division should be called a "jurisdiction" or a "Jurisdictional Conference." Some of the resulting inconsistencies are still found in the Constitution; but in 1944 all legislation was edited to conform to the popular usage which had by that time become established, to use the word "jurisdiction" except for the administrative body.

Layman. A member of a local Methodist church. This term also applies to unordained local preachers and to persons who have received ministerial ordination but who are not members on trial or in full connection in an Annual Conference.

Location. The voluntary or involuntary termination of a minister's membership in an Annual Conference without the surrender of ministerial credentials. (§§ 374-79.)

Member, church. A person who has been baptized and has accepted the baptismal and membership vows, entering into solemn covenant with the members of the church, as provided in the Ritual. (§§ 105-12, 1910-16.)

Minister. A person who has been ordained by a bishop and, ordinarily, is a member on trial or in full connection in an Annual Conference. The term is also applied to licensed, or to licensed and ordained, persons serving as pastors of charges.

Minister on trial. A person who, after meeting the conditions prescribed in the Discipline, has been received by vote of an Annual Conference as a probationary member of that body. (§§ 321-31.)

Minister in full connection. A person who, having satisfactorily completed all the Disciplinary requirements, including the probationary period (except for persons received on credentials), has been elected to full membership by an Annual Conference. (§§ 341-45.)

Minister in effective relation. A minister in full connection in an Annual Conference who is under appointment of a bishop.

Minister under special appointment (in detached service). One who has been appointed by a bishop to serve in some capacity other than as pastor of a charge or as district superintendent. (§§ 432 §§ 4, 5, 6.)

Minister in supernumerary relation (supernumerary). One who because of impaired health or other equally sufficient reason is temporarily unable to perform full work and has been granted this relation by vote of the Annual Conference. (§ 365.)

Minister, retired (superannuated). One who has been placed in the retired relation by action of his Annual Conference or who has reached the age of seventy-two and therefore has automatically been placed in the retired relation. (§§ 367-71.)

Official Board. The administrative body of the local church, responsible to the Quarterly Conference. (§ 206.)

Orders, ministerial. The office or status of a person in the Christian ministry. In The Methodist Church ministerial orders are of two classes: deacon's and elder's.

Ordination. The act of conferring ministerial orders. The ritual for ordination is set forth in the Discipline. (§§ 1920-21.)

Preacher, local. A layman who has been granted a license to preach, or has been ordained, according to the laws of the church. He continues to be a lay member of a local church. (§§ 304-20.) See note under Preacher, traveling.

Preacher, traveling. A minister who has been admitted on trial or into full connection in an Annual Conference. (§§ 321-35.)

NOTE: This term has an interesting historical background.

The minister, in early Methodism, who devoted his full time to the work of the ministry and was therefore subject to appointment in first one place, then another, was called a "traveling preacher," in distinction from the "local preacher," who, because he served only part time and earned his livelihood by other means, was tied to a local community and was unable to "travel" or "itinerate."

Reception on credentials. The process by which a minister coming from some other evangelical church is received into membership by an Annual Conference, on trial or in full connection, on presentation of his ministerial credentials. (§§ 411-13.)

Ritual. The rites and ceremonies which have been authorized for use in the administration of the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism, in marriage, burial of the dead, ordination, and other offices for the conduct of public and private worship.

Steward. A layman who is charged with the responsibility of fulfilling certain assigned duties. Specifically, a steward in a local church is one who is elected by the Quarterly Conference or members of the church to serve on the Quarterly Conference and the Official Board or who holds such office ex officio. (§§ 208-11.)

Supply pastor. A local preacher or a member of an Annual Conference who is employed by a district superintendent during the conference year to serve as the pastor of a charge.

World service. The program, approved by the General Conference, for the promotion of the general benevolences of The Methodist Church, including the collection of funds for these purposes. The world service agencies are: the Board of Missions, the Board of Education, the theological schools, the Board of Evangelism, the Board of Lay Activities, the Board of Temperance, the Board of World Peace, the Board of Social and Economic Relations, the Board of Hospitals and Homes, the Board of Pensions, the Television, Radio, and Film Commission, and the American Bible Society. (§§ 741-55.)

CHAPTER IX

THE DIRECTORY

The General Conference directed that the 1956 *Discipline* "be published as soon as possible after the adjournment of the Jurisdictional Conferences and that there be included therein the directory listing the bishops and the members of the various boards and commissions of the church in so far as information is available at the time."

Names of ministers, other than bishops, in *italics*

2101. Bishops of The Methodist Church

(Names of effective bishops in SMALL CAPITALS; of retired bishops in lower case)

- HOBART B. AMSTUTZ, Methodist Centre, Box 483 (23B Coleman St.), Singapore
- Raymond L. Archer, 8966 Eastwood Rd., Pittsburgh 21, Pa.
- Theodor Arvidson, Readmansgatan 69 iv, Stockholm Va., Sweden
- James C. Baker, 1858 California St., San Marino 9, Calif.
- Enrique C. Balloch, Ituzzing6 191, Mercedes, Uruguay
- SANTE UBERTO BARBIERI, Rivadavia 4044, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- HIRSH A. BOAZ, 4352 Fairfax Ave., Highland Park, Dallas 5, Tex.
- NEWELL S. BOOTH, Box 522, Elisabethville, Congo Belge
- J. W. E. BOWEN, 250 Auburn Ave., N.E., Atlanta 3, Ga.
- JOHN W. BRANSCOMB, 225 E. Duval St., Jacksonville 2, Fla.
- CHARLES W. BRASHARES, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill.
- W. Y. CHEN, China
- MATTHEW W. CLAIR, Jr., 2731 Pine St., St. Louis 3, Mo.
- D. STANLEY COOKS, 1937 Summit Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.
- FRED PIERCE CONSON, 1701 Arch St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.
- Ralph S. Cushman, 2416 East Lake Dr., Raleigh, N.C.
- DANA DAWSON, 810 National Bank of Topeka Bldg., Topeka, Kans.
- RALPH E. DODGE, The Methodist Church, Lourenço Marques, Mozambique
- Roberto Elphick, Casilla 3491, Santiago, Chile
- F. GERALD ENSLEY, 615 Tenth St., Des Moines 14, Ia.
- Charles Wesley Flint, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C.
- EUGENE M. FRANK, 835 Olea Dr., St. Louis 5, Mo.
- MARVIN A. FRANKLIN, Millsaps Bldg., Jackson 1, Miss.
- PAUL N. GARNER, 405 Methodist Bldg., Richmond 19, Va.
- Juan E. Gattinoni, Rivadavia 4044, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- John Gowdy, 235 Knowles Ave., Winter Park, Fla.
- A. RAYMOND GRANT, 714 Jackson Tower, Portland 5, Ore.
- ODD HAGREN, Sibyllegatan 18, Stockholm O., Sweden
- Wilbur E. Hammaker, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C.
- NOLAN B. HARMON, First Methodist Church, N. Tryon & 8th St., Charlotte 2, N.C.
- Costen J. Harrell, 1009 Vickers Circle, Decatur, Ga.
- BACHMAN G. HONGE, 1801 N. Sixth St., Birmingham, Ala.
- Ivan Lee Holt, 20 N. Kingshighway, St. Louis 8, Mo.
- Robert E. Jones, Box 103, Waveland, Miss.
- Z. T. KAUNG, China
- Edward W. Kelly, 2518 Atkinson St., Detroit, Mich.
- GERALD H. KENNEDY, 5250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 29, Calif.
- WILLIS J. KING, 631 Baronne St., New Orleans 12, La.
- W. EARL LEDDEN, 317 E. Jefferson St., Syracuse 2, N.Y.
- Frederick D. Leete, 1120 Seventh St., N., St. Petersburg, Fla.
- JOHN WESLEY LORD, 581 Boylston St., Boston 18, Mass.
- EDGAR A. LOVE, 828 N. Carrollton Ave., Baltimore 17, Md.
- Titus Lowe, 3540 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis 8, Ind.
- J. Ralph Magee, 1864 Sherman Ave., Evanston, Ill.
- PAUL E. MARTIN, 723 Center St., Little Rock, Ark.
- WILLIAM C. MARTIN, 1910 Main St., Dallas 1, Tex.
- George A. Miller, 3561 Brook St., Lafayette, Calif.
- SHOT K. MONDOL, 12 Boulevard Rd., Delhi, India
- ARTHUR J. MOORE, 63 Auburn Ave., N.E. Atlanta 3, Ga.
- FREDERICK B. NEWELL, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.
- H. CLIFFORD NORTHOTT, 516 First National Bank Bldg., Madison 3, Wis.
- G. BROMLEY OXNAM, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C.
- William Walter Peele, Route 1, Laurinburg, N.C.

GLENN R. PHILLIPS, 2100 S. Josephine, Denver 10, Colo.
 J. Waskom Pickett, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.
 Clare Purcell, 3514 Country Club Rd., Birmingham, Ala.
 RICHARD C. RAINES, 527 E. 38th St., Indianapolis 5, Ind.
 MARSHALL R. REED, 1205 Kales Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.
 CLEMENT D. ROCKEY, The Methodist Church, Multan, West Pakistan
 JULIO MANUEL SABANES, Casilla 67, Santiago, Chile
 Charles C. Seelman, 6001 Hillcrest, Dallas 5, Tex.
 Alexander P. Shaw, 2151 W. 20th St., Los Angeles 18, Calif.
 ROY H. SHORT, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tenn.
 FERDINAND SIGG, Badenerstr. 69, Zurich 4, Switzerland
 MANGAL SINGH, Robinson Memorial, Byculla, Bombay, India
 A. FRANK SMITH, 1049 Kirby Dr., Houston 19, Tex.
 W. ANGIE SMITH, 6619 Hillcrest, Oklahoma City, Okla.
 John McKendree Springer, Mulungwishii, via Elisabethville, Congo Belge
 James H. Straubn, 303 Northway, Baltimore 18, Md.
 JOHN A. SURHAN, Perkins House, Abid Rd., Hyderabad, India
 GABRIEL SUNDARAM, 37 Cantonment Rd., Lucknow, India
 PRINCE A. TAYLOR, Jr., Monrovia, Liberia
 DONALD H. TIPPETT, 83 McAllister St., San Francisco 2, Calif.
 JOSE L. VALENCIA, Methodist Mission, Box 756, Manila, P.I.
 EDWIN E. VOIGT, 406 Citizens Bldg., Aberdeen, S.D.
 Raymond J. Wade, 431 Moss Ave., Bay View, Mich.
 RALPH A. WARD, 22 Hennessey Road, Hong Kong
 WILLIAM T. WATKINS, 1115 S. Fourth St., Louisville 3, Ky.
 H. BASCOM WATTS, 4045 Mohawk St., Lincoln 10, Neb.
 Herbert Welch, 520 W. 110th St., New York 25, N.Y.
 HAZEN G. WERNER, 434 Rowlands Bldg., 12 N. Third St., Columbus 15, Ohio
 LLOYD C. WICKE, Methodist Center, Smithfield at Seventh, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.
 FRIEDRICH WUNDERLICH, Grillparzerstr. 34, Frankfurt a/M, Germany

¶ 2102. Assignment of Bishops to Jurisdictions and Areas

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Boston Area: Bishop John Wesley Lord
 Maine, New England, New England Southern, New Hampshire
New York Area: Bishop Frederick B. Newell
 Newark, New York, New York East, Troy
Philadelphia Area: Bishop Fred Pierce Corson
 New Jersey, Philadelphia, Puerto Rico Provisional, Wyoming
Pittsburgh Area: Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke
 Erie, Pittsburgh, West Virginia
Syracuse Area: Bishop W. Earl Ledden
 Central New York, Genesee, Northern New York
Washington Area: Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
 Baltimore, Central Pennsylvania, Peninsula
Overseas service: Bishop Newell S. Booth
 See ¶ 2005 § 2 and 2103, Africa Central Conference
Retired relation: Bishops Raymond L. Archer, Charles W. Flint, John Gowdy, James H. Straubn, Herbert Welch

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Atlanta Area: Bishop Arthur J. Moore
 North Georgia, South Georgia

Birmingham Area: Bishop Bachman G. Hodge
 Alabama-West Florida, North Alabama
Charlotte Area: Bishop Nolan B. Harmon
 South Carolina, Western North Carolina
Jackson Area: Bishop Marvin A. Franklin
 Mississippi, North Mississippi
Jacksonville Area: Bishop John Branscomb
 Cuba, Florida
Louisville Area: Bishop William T. Watkins
 Kentucky, Louisville, Memphis
Nashville Area: Bishop Roy H. Short
 Holston, Tennessee
Richmond Area: Bishop Paul N. Garber
 North Carolina, Virginia
Retired relation: Bishops Costen J. Harrell, W. W. Peele, Clare Purcell

CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Atlantic Coast Area: Bishop J. W. E. Bowen
 Central Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina
Baltimore Area: Bishop Edgar A. Love
 Delaware, East Tennessee, North Carolina, Washington
New Orleans Area: Bishop Willis J. King
 Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Upper Mississippi, West Texas
St. Louis Area: Bishop Matthew W. Clair
 Central West, Lexington, Southwest Tennessee
Overseas service: Bishop Prince A. Taylor, Jr.
 See ¶ 2005 § 1 and 2103, Work Not Included in Central Conferences
Retired relation: Bishops Robert E. Jones, Edward W. Kelly, Alexander P. Shaw

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Illinois Area: Bishop Charles W. Brashares
 Illinois, Rock River, Southern Illinois
Dakotas Area: Bishop Edwin E. Voigt
 North Dakota, South Dakota
Iowa Area: Bishop F. Gerald Ensley
 Iowa-Des Moines, North Iowa
Michigan Area: Bishop Marshall R. Reed
 Detroit, Michigan
Indiana Area: Bishop Richard C. Raines
 Indiana, North Indiana, Northwest Indiana
Minnesota Area: Bishop D. Stanley Coors
 Minnesota
Ohio Area: Bishop Hazen G. Werner
 North-East Ohio, Ohio
Wisconsin Area: Bishop H. Clifford Northcott
 West Wisconsin, Wisconsin
Retired relation: Bishops Ralph S. Cushman, Frederick D. Leete, Titus Lowe, J. Ralph Magee, John M. Springer, Raymond J. Wade

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Arkansas-Louisiana Area: Bishop Paul E. Martin
 Little Rock, Louisiana, North Arkansas
Dallas-Fort Worth Area: Bishop William C. Martin
 Central Texas, North Texas, Northwest Texas
Houston-San Antonio Area: Bishop A. Frank Smith
 Rio Grande, Southwest Texas, Texas
Kansas Area: Bishop Dana Dawson
 Central Kansas, Kansas

Missouri Area: Bishop Eugene M. Frank
 Missouri, St. Louis, Southwest Missouri
Nebraska Area: Bishop H. Bascom Watts
 Nebraska
Oklahoma-New Mexico Area: Bishop W. Angie Smith
 Indian Mission, New Mexico, Oklahoma, visitation responsibility for
 Latin America (see ¶ 2005 § 3)
Retired relation: Bishops Hiram A. Boaz, Ivan Lee Holt, J. Waskom
 Pickett, Charles C. Seletman

WESTERN JURISDICTION

Denver Area: Bishop Glenn R. Phillips
 Montana, Rocky Mountain
Los Angeles Area: Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy
 Hawaii Mission, Southern California-Arizona
Portland Area: Bishop A. Raymond Grant
 Alaska Mission, Idaho, Oregon, Pacific Northwest
San Francisco Area: Bishop Donald H. Tippet
 California-Nevada, Pacific Japanese Provisional
Retired relation: Bishops James C. Baker, Wilbur E. Hammaker, George
 A. Miller

¶ 2103. Assignment of Bishops to Central Conferences and Areas

AFRICA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Elisabethville Area: Bishop Newell S. Booth
 Central Congo, Southern Congo
Lourenço Marques Area: Bishop Ralph E. Dodge
 Angola, Rhodesia, Southeast Africa

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN EUROPE CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Geneva Area: Bishop Ferdinand Sigg
 Austria Mission, Belgium, Bulgaria Provisional, Czechoslovakia, Hungary
 Provisional, North Africa Provisional, Polish Provisional, Spain Mis-
 sion, Switzerland, Yugoslavia Mission

CHINA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Bishops W. Y. Chen, Z. T. Kaung, one bishop to be elected; no report
 of assignment to three areas formed from: East China, Foochow,
 Hinghwa, Kalgan Provisional, Kiangsi, Mid-China, North China,
 Shantung, West China, Yenping (see footnote to ¶ 1876, also "Work
 Not Included in Central Conferences" below)

GERMANY CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Frankfurt Area: Bishop Friedrich Wunderlich
 Central Germany, Northeast Germany, Northwest Germany, South
 Germany, Southwest Germany

LATIN AMERICA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Buenos Aires Area: Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri
 Argentina, Bolivia Provisional, Uruguay Provisional
Santiago Area: Bishop Julio Manuel Sabanes
 Central America Provisional, Chile, Peru Provisional
Retired relation: Bishops Enrique C. Balloch, Juan E. Gattinoni

NORTHERN EUROPE CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Northern Europe Area: Bishop Odd Hagen
 Baltic and Slavic Provisional, Denmark, Finland Provisional, Finland-
 Swedish Provisional, Norway, Sweden, Russia Mission
Retired relation: Bishop Theodor Arvidson

PHILIPPINES CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Manila Area: Bishop José L. Valencia
 Northern Philippines, Mindanao Provisional, Northwest Philippines,
 Philippines

SOUTHEASTERN ASIA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Singapore Area: Bishop Hobart B. Amstutz
 Burma, Malaya, Malaysia Chinese, Sarawak Provisional, Sumatra
 Provisional

SOUTHERN ASIA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Bombay Area: Bishop Mangal Singh
 Bombay, Gujarat
Delhi Area: Bishop Shot K. Mondol
 Delhi, North India, conference to be named (see ¶ 1871 § 11)
Hyderabad Area: Bishop John A. Subhan
 Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, South India
Lucknow Area: Bishop Gabriel Sundaram
 Bengal, Lucknow
Pakistan Area: Bishop Clement D. Rokey
 Indus River

WORK NOT INCLUDED IN CENTRAL CONFERENCES

Monrovia Area: Bishop Prince A. Taylor, Jr.
 Liberia
Hong Kong Area: Bishop Ralph A. Ward
 Hong Kong Mission, Taiwan Mission (see ¶ 1876)

¶ 2104. The Council of Bishops

Officers elected annually

President: Bishop W. Earl Ledden
Vice-president: Bishop W. Angie Smith
Secretary: Bishop Roy H. Short, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tenn.
Executive committee: Officers and Bishops Edgar A. Love, Paul E.
 Martin
Members: The bishops of The Methodist Church

¶ 2105. Jurisdictional Colleges of Bishops

Officers elected annually

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

President: Bishop Fred Pierce Corson
Secretary: Bishop W. Earl Ledden, 317 E. Jefferson St. Syracuse 2, N.Y.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

President: Bishop Marvin A. Franklin
Secretary: Bishop John W. Branscomb, 225 E. Duval St., Jacksonville,
 Fla.

CENTRAL JURISDICTION

President: Bishop Edgar A. Love
Secretary: Bishop Willis J. King, 631 Baronne St., New Orleans 12, La.

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

President: Bishop D. Stanley Coors
Vice-president: Bishop Edwin E. Voigt
Secretary: Bishop F. Gerald Ensley, 615 Tenth St., Des Moines 14, Ia.

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

President: Bishop William C. Martin
Secretary: Bishop W. Angie Smith, 6619 Hillcrest, Oklahoma City, Okla.

WESTERN JURISDICTION

President: Bishop Donald H. Tippet
Secretary: Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, 5250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 29, Calif.

¶ 2106. The Judicial Council

OFFICERS

President: J. Ernest Wilkins
Vice-president: Lester A. Welliver
Secretary: Ralph M. Houston, 112 Long Dr., Hempstead, N.Y.

MEMBERS

R. F. Curl (SC 1964), Paul R. Ervin (SE 1960), Ivan Lee Holt, Jr. (SC 1960), Ralph M. Houston (NE 1960), Donald A. Odell (W 1964), A. Wesley Pugh (NC 1964), J. Russell Throckmorton (SC 1960), Lester A. Welliver (NE 1964), J. Ernest Wilkins (C 1964)

RESERVES

Ministers: Harold H. Hughes (SE 1960), H. Hughes Wagner (NE 1964), Ben H. Christner (W 1964), Walter G. Williams (W 1964), Ralph Taylor Alton (NC 1960), Harry A. Hanson (SC 1960),
Laymen: Vincent P. Clarke (NE 1960), F. Murray Benson (NE 1960), Robert D. Blue (NC 1964), Leon E. Hickman (NE 1964), Samuel W. Witwer, Jr. (NC 1960)

¶ 2107. Secretary of the General Conference

Lud H. Estes (to December 31, 1956), 1669 N. Parkway, Memphis 12, Tenn.
 Leon T. Moore (after January 1, 1957), 1701 Arch St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

¶ 2108. Commission on Entertainment of the General Conference

OFFICERS

Chairman: William H. Alderson
Vice-chairman: Norman L. Conard
Vice-chairman: Paul V. Galloway

Secretary: J. Wesley Hole, 5250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 29, Calif.

MEMBERS

William H. Alderson (NE), Lincolnt S. Allen (C), Frank E. Baker (NE), Norman L. Conard (W), Thurman L. Dodson (C), Paul V. Galloway (SC), Carl C. Hall (SC), J. Wesley Hole (W), Robert C. Holmes (SE), Thomas B. Lugg (treasurer of the Council on World Service and Finance), Leon T. Moore (secretary of the General Conference), Charles Ralph Paul (SE), John R. Van Sickle (NC), J. Otis Young (NC)

¶ 2109. Officers of the Jurisdictional Conferences

NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Secretary: Frank W. Ake, 40 S. Third St., Lewisburg, Pa.
Treasurer: J. Edgar Washabaugh, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.

SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Secretary: Lud H. Estes (to December 31, 1956), 1669 N. Parkway, Memphis 12, Tenn. Don A. Cooke (after January 1, 1957), 225 E. Duval St., Jacksonville, Fla.
Treasurer: Ben A. Whitmore, Third National Bank, Nashville 3, Tenn.

CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Secretary: George W. Carter, 2021 Louisiana Ave., New Orleans, La.
Treasurer: A. M. Carter, Augusta, Ga.

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Secretary: R. Merrill Powers, DeKalb, Ill.
Treasurer: Thomas B. Lugg, 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

Secretary: E. L. Jorns, Room 306 Methodist Gold Star Bldg., Oklahoma City, Okla.
Treasurer: T. Russell Reitz, 726 Sunset Dr., Manhattan, Kans.

WESTERN JURISDICTION

Secretary: Willard E. Stanton, 1595 Adams Ave., Chehalis, Wash.
Treasurer: J. Wesley Hole, 5250 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 29, Calif.

¶ 2110. Co-ordinating Council

OFFICERS

President: Bishop Charles W. Brashares
Vice-president: Leon Hickman
Secretary: Edwin R. Garrison, 527 E. 38th St., Indianapolis 5, Indiana
Executive committee: Officers and J. W. Curry, Walter C. Gum, J. P. Stafford, Bishop H. Bascom Watts, Henry L. Weiss

MEMBERS

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Lester W. Auman, J. Leas Green, Leon Hickman, Mrs. Arthur J. Jackson, G. Wesley Lewis, Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke

Southeastern Jurisdiction: Embree H. Blackard, C. B. Gilmore, Walter C. Gum, D. Trigg James, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, J. P. Stafford, Osso W. Stanley, Mrs. Edwin B. White.
Central Jurisdiction: J. W. Curry, Mrs. Mary Means Drake, Richard C. Erwin, Bishop Willis J. King
North Central Jurisdiction: Bishop Charles W. Brashares, Edwin R. Garrison, Ralph G. Hastings, Mrs. Arthur T. Henrici, Paul G. James, J. V. Madison
South Central Jurisdiction: Ethan W. Dodgen, Mrs. Max Gentry, T. Russell Reitz, *Jarvard Secrest*, W. McFerrin Stowe, Bishop H. Bascom Watts
Western Jurisdiction: Mrs. Faye Batten, Bishop A. Raymond Grant, Hubert E. Orton, Henry L. Weiss
Overseas bishops: Friedrich Wunderlich, José L. Valencia

¶ 2111. Council on World Service and Finance

OFFICERS

President: Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
Vice-president: Bishop Paul E. Martin
Recording secretary: George B. McKibbin, 231 South LaSalle St., Chicago 4, Illinois
Executive committee: Officers and Frank W. Bevan, Mrs. J. D. Bragg, Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, A. M. Carter, Edwin L. Jones, R. Franklin Thompson

MEMBERS

Bishops: Paul E. Martin, G. Bromley Oxnam
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Frank W. Bevan, Harold C. Buckingham, Carl K. Gilchrist, W. Clyde Sykes
Southeastern Jurisdiction: H. W. Blackburn, Lee Davis, Nat G. Long, Luther W. Wells
Central Jurisdiction: A. M. Carter, Joseph T. Johnson, Ira B. Loud, G. M. Phelps
North Central Jurisdiction: Kenneth B. Cope, Benjamin F. Holm, George B. McKibbin, Thurman B. Morris
South Central Jurisdiction: G. Lemuel Penn, J. S. Ploughe, W. B. Rider, Joe T. Thompson
Western Jurisdiction: Clyde A. Cromwell, Charles S. Kendall, G. Clifford Pettygrove, R. Franklin Thompson
At large: Mrs. A. O. Aldrich, Charles F. Berghelmer, Mrs. J. D. Bragg, Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, Mrs. E. L. Hilman, Edwin L. Jones, J. Bruce McCullough

STAFF

OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Illinois

General secretary and treasurer: Thomas B. Lugg
Associate secretary: J. Homer Magee
Associate treasurer: Jason R. Robinson
Statistician and editor of the General Minutes: Albert C. Hoover
Director, Transportation Office: James B. Hoge
Director, Shipping and Service Department: Jesse I. Gibson

¶ 2112. Board of Publication

OFFICERS

Chairman: William H. Swiggart
Vice-chairman: F. Murray Benson
Secretary: Claude Young, Box 66, Rochester, Ind.

Executive committee: Officers and W. A. Bailey, Howard C. Baldwin, P. M. Boyd, John D. Crumme, George M. Curry, E. R. Filley, Henry V. Loeppert, Eugene McElvany, Marshall T. Steel, E. Wade Weldon, Ben A. Whitmore, Clarence M. Winchester, J. Otis Young

MEMBERS

Bishops: Glenn L. Phillips, Roy H. Short
Northeastern Jurisdiction: F. Murray Benson (1964), W. Sproule Boyd (1964), F. Nelson Bridgman (1968), George M. Curry (1960), Franklin Duncombe (1960), E. R. Filley (1964), William F. Hoeft (1960), Walter L. Hunt (1968), William A. Wilbur (1968)
Southeastern Jurisdiction: J. A. Bays (1960), P. M. Boyd (1964) J. Quentin Davison (1960), Charles M. Earley (1968), H. T. Hefir (1964), Clinton T. Howell (1960), Marion R. Mobley (1968), Carl J. Sanders (1968), William H. Swiggart (1960), Lee F. Tuttle (1968), E. Wade Weldon (1960), Ben A. Whitmore (1960)
Central Jurisdiction: C. Anderson Davis (1960), Clarence M. Winchester (1964)
North Central Jurisdiction: W. Fred Allen (1964), Howard C. Baldwin (1960), James M. Buxton (1964), Henry H. Lewis (1968), Henry V. Loeppert (1964), Bradshaw Mintener (1960), Byron F. Stroh (1964), Allen Whitfield (1968), Claude Young (1960), J. Otis Young (1960)
South Central Jurisdiction: W. A. Bailey (1960), Kenneth H. Dryden (1960), Homer T. Fort (1968), J. Clinton Hawkins (1960), Eugene McElvany (1968), R. Connor Morehead (1960), Robert J. Smith (1964), Marshall T. Steel (1960)
Western Jurisdiction: John D. Crumme (1960), Clark J. Wood (1968)

¶ 2113. The Methodist Publishing House

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

OFFICE: 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tenn.

Publisher of The Methodist Church, and president: Lovick Pierce
Associate publisher: J. Edgar Washabaugh
Executive vice-president: Pat Beaird
Treasurer: Jewell R. Smith
Vice-president, accounting: John H. Laird
Vice-president, manufacturing: R. G. Graham
Vice-president, personnel and public relations: Charles A. Britton, Jr.
Vice-president, publishing, and manager of Abingdon Press: Cecil D. Jones
Vice-president, sales: Walter L. Seaman

EDITORS

Book editor and editor of Abingdon Press: Emory Stevens Bucke
Assistant book editors: Gordon B. Duncan; Robert Roy Wright, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.
Editor of religious books, Abingdon Press: Paul M. Pettit
Editor of college texts, Abingdon Press: Pierce S. Ellis, Jr.
Editor of RELIGION IN LIFE: Emory Stevens Bucke
Editorial director of TOGETHER and THE NEW CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE: Leland D. Case, 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.
Editor of THE NEW CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE: T. Otto Nall, 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.
Editor of THE CENTRAL CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE: L. Scott Allen, 631 Baronne St., New Orleans 13, La.

Managing editor of TOGETHER: Charles W. Keyser
Editor of church-school publications: See ¶ 2134

REGIONAL HOUSE MANAGERS

Baltimore 3, Md., 516 N. Charles St.: A. C. Choin
Chicago 11, Ill., 740 Rush St.: William B. Sutton
Cincinnati 2, Ohio, 420 Plum St.: W. Frank White
Dallas 1, Tex., 1910 Main St.: J. F. Albright
Detroit 1, Mich., 28 E. Elizabeth St.: O. L. Oelke
Kansas City 6, Mo., 1021 McGee St.: H. C. Compton
Nashville 2, Tenn., 810 Broadway: D. B. James
New York 11, N. Y., 150 Fifth Ave.: William C. Hyde
Pittsburgh 30, Pa., 642 Smithfield St.: George C. Pask
Portland 5, Ore., 521 S. W. Eleventh Ave.: John E. Hahn
Richmond 16, Va., Fifth and Grace Sts.: A. R. White
San Francisco 2, Calif., 85 McAllister St.: E. M. McNeill

COKEBURY BOOK STORE MANAGERS

Atlanta 3, Ga., 72 Broad St., N.W.: Lloyd H. Snyder, Jr.
Boston 16, Mass., 577 Boylston St.: Lovick P. Alfriend
Los Angeles 29, Calif., 5244 Santa Monica Blvd.: J. E. Bain

MANUFACTURING PLANT SUPERINTENDENTS

Cincinnati 2, Ohio, 420 Plum St.: W. Wayne Hogan
Nashville 3, Tenn., 815 Demonbreun St.: S. Porter Bradshaw

¶ 2114. Interboard Commission on the
Local Church

Board of Missions: Mrs. H. F. Brandt, J. Wesley Hole, *Harold H. Hughes*, Mrs. Charles W. Mead, Bishop W. Angie Smith, *Jack Wilkes*
Board of Education: Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, Bishop Paul N. Garber, Bishop John Wesley Lord, Dennis V. Snapp, Bishop Donald H. Tippet, Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke
Board of Evangelism: George A. Fallon, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, *Ray W. Ragsdale*, Bishop Roy H. Short, Bishop W. Angie Smith
Board of Lay Activities: R. Howard Berg, W. E. Bostwick, Richard W. Campbell, Dennis R. Fletcher, Ray H. Nichols, Pat Thompson

¶ 2115. Board of Missions

OFFICERS

President: Bishop Arthur J. Moore
Vice-presidents: Bishop Richard C. Raines, Bishop A. Frank Smith, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman

MEMBERS

Bishops: Sante Uberto Barbieri, Newell S. Booth, John W. Branscomb, D. Stanley Coors, Dana Dawson, A. Raymond Grant, Odd Hagen, Gerald H. Kennedy, W. Earl Ledden, Edgar A. Love, William C. Martin, Shot K. Mondol, Arthur J. Moore, Frederick B. Newell, H. Clifford Northcott, Glenn R. Phillips, Richard C. Raines, Marshall R. Reed, Roy H. Short, A. Frank Smith, W. Angie Smith, José L. Valencia, Ralph A. Ward, Hazen G. Werner

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Charles V. Adams, Mrs. William T. Anderson, *Hanford H. Closson*, Mrs. G. Albin Dahlquist, Mrs. L. F. Hemenway, *Merrill C. Johnson*, Mrs. Paul G. Masters, *Ernest V. May*, Mrs. John M. Pearson, Donald E. Robinson, Herbert J. Schoellkopf, Mrs. Wallace N. Streeter; *youth:* Harold Garmon

Southeastern Jurisdiction: Mrs. Walter H. Beckham, *Millard C. Cleveland*, Mrs. Charles L. Cooper, Mrs. C. P. Hardin, *Harvey C. Holland, Sr.*, Mrs. John Hoyle, Jr., *Harold H. Hughes*, Mrs. L. L. Jackson, John A. B. Lowry, W. D. Myers, Grover W. Ray, James H. Seabrook, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Mrs. H. B. Trimble, *George R. Williams*, Mrs. Ralph T. Wilson, Sr.; *youth:* John Chamberlin

Central Jurisdiction: Mrs. E. J. Badgett, *Charles J. Booker*, Dreyfus W. Froe, Dewey Lampkin, Mrs. W. H. McCallum, *Charlemagne P. Payne, Sr.*, Mrs. W. Napoleon Rivers, Mrs. J. Ernest Wilkins; *youth:* Katherine Edwards

North Central Jurisdiction: Robert C. Armstrong, Mrs. Harold M. Baker, Mrs. H. F. Brandt, Martin Essex, *Jesse W. Fox*, Mrs. Donald H. Gibbs, Mrs. Albert O. Gunnerud, *Lawrence D. Havighurst*, Mrs. A. R. Henry, Mrs. Alfred H. Lowther, Mrs. Frank L. McDaniel, Mrs. T. Otto Nall, *Lynn J. Radcliffe*, *Laren Spear*, Donald Strong, Benjamin Weir; *youth:* Patricia A. Lashbrook

South Central Jurisdiction: Wilford V. Bane, Mrs. C. C. Coffee, S. Walton Cole, Juan de la Vina, Jr., Matt L. Ellis, Mrs. Frank Great-house, Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, Mrs. Glenn E. Laskey, Mrs. Charles W. Mead, H. E. Newton, Mrs. Willis L. Perryman, *Jack Wilkes*; *youth:* Gwendolyn Quercibitty

Western Jurisdiction: Mrs. Walter A. Eichinger, *Elliott L. Fisher*, *Mereditth A. Groves*, J. Wesley Hole, Mrs. James P. Howell, Mrs. B. R. Lewis, William A. Loach, Mrs. B. F. Russell; *youth:* Gilford Tanabe
Elected by the board: George H. Atkinson (W), Russell J. Bauer (NE), L. A. Beeghly (NC), William Broadhurst (SC), James T. Buckley (NE), John H. Calvert (SC), Mrs. George W. Carter, Jr. (C), Truman W. Collins (W), Ralph M. Dunn (NC), R. W. Fair (SC), B. T. Fooks (SC), W. G. Giles (SE), Mrs. Robert K. Gordon (C), Mrs. Frank I. Hollingsworth (W), Mrs. W. E. Horton, Jr. (SC), Mrs. Edwin A. Ingham (W), William A. Love (C), Alonzo W. McBride (C), Wandell M. Mooney (NE), Guy W. Oliver, Sr. (C), Joe J. Perkins (SC), Mrs. Alvin B. Pfeiffer (NC), Andrew H. Phelps (NE), H. W. Pittman (SE), Mrs. E. U. Robinson (SE), Littell Rust (SE), William E. Sander (W), Aura E. Severinghaus (NE), Hampton D. Smith (C), W. Jasper Smith (SE), Mrs. Harold L. Soulen (SC), George V. Steed (W), Harold S. Vincent (NC), Mrs. John W. Warren (NE), Charles L. Wheeler (W), one woman each from North-eastern, Southeastern, and North Central Jurisdictions and one man to be elected

Representative of National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission: Ruth Rae Mountz

STAFF

OFFICE: 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N. Y.

Recording secretary: Barbara H. Lewis
Assistant recording secretary: Mrs. Gladys Gabrielsen
Treasurer: H. Conwell Snoko
Assistant treasurers: Marguerite Harris, H. Burnham Kirkland
Staff of Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel: Alpharetta Leeper, Jane Stentz, J. Marguerite Twincem, M. O. Williams, Jr., Paul Yount, Jr.
For other staff names and addresses see ¶¶ 2116-22

¶ 2116. Division of World Missions

OFFICERS

President: Bishop Richard C. Raines
Vice-presidents: Bishop William C. Martin, Charles V. Adams, Wandell M. Mooney

MEMBERS

Charles V. Adams, Mrs. William T. Anderson, Robert C. Armstrong, George H. Atkinson, Mrs. Harold M. Baker, Wilford V. Bane, L. A. Beeghly, Bishop John W. Branscomb, John H. Calvert, John Chamberlin, Millard C. Cleveland, S. Walton Cole, Truman W. Collins, Bishop Dana Dawson, Matt L. Ellis, R. W. Fair, B. T. Fooks, Dreyfus W. Froe, Harold Garmon, W. G. Giles, Mrs. Robert K. Gordon, Mrs. Albert O. Gunnerud, Lawrence D. Havighurst, Mrs. J. Russell Henderson, Harvey C. Holland, Sr., Mrs. Frank I. Hollingsworth, Mrs. W. E. Horton, Jr., Mrs. John Hoyle, Jr., Harold H. Hughes, Mrs. L. L. Jackson, Merrill C. Johnson, Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, Dewey Lampkin, Mrs. Glenn E. Laskey, Bishop W. Earl Ledden, Mrs. B. R. Lewis, Mrs. Alfred H. Lowther, Mrs. Frank L. McDaniel, Bishop William C. Martin, Mrs. Charles W. Mead, Wandell M. Mooney, Mrs. T. Otto Nall, Guy W. Oliver, Sr., Mrs. John M. Pearson, Andrew H. Phelps, Lynn J. Radcliffe, Bishop Richard C. Raines, Grover W. Ray, Mrs. W. Napoleon Rivers, Donald E. Robinson, Mrs. E. U. Robinson, Mrs. B. F. Russell, Littell Rust, James H. Seabrook, Aura E. Seeveringhaus, Bishop W. Angie Smith, Laren Spear, Mrs. Wallace N. Streeter, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Mrs. H. B. Trimble, Harold S. Vincent, Mrs. John W. Warren, Benjamin Weir, Bishop Hazen G. Werner, Mrs. Ralph T. Wilson, Sr., three bishops serving overseas to be elected

STAFF

OFFICE: 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, 11, N.Y.

Recording secretary: Mrs. Gladys Gabrielsen
General secretary: Eugene L. Smith
Associate general secretary and executive secretary for Southern Asia: James K. Mathews
Executive secretaries:
Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Ryukyus: Thoburn T. Brumbaugh
Africa, Europe: to be elected
Latin America: James E. Ellis
Southeast Asia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan: Tracey K. Jones, Jr.
Medical secretary: Harold N. Brewster M.D. (on leave 1956-58 to organize medical program in Sarawak)
Acting medical secretary: Bruce W. Jarvis M.D.
Director, Advance Department: Ernest E. Tuck
Associate director, Advance Department: Roy S. Smyres
Treasurer: H. Burnham Kirkland
Associate treasurer: Ashton A. Almand
Assistant treasurers: Edna L. Robertson, Eleanor P. Clarkson

¶ 2117. Division of National Missions

OFFICERS

President: Bishop A. Frank Smith
Vice-presidents: Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Bishop Edgar A. Love, H. E. Newton, Russell J. Bauer

MEMBERS

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STAFF

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 Mrs. Cecil P. Hardin
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 Publication and business manager, Literature Headquarters: Mrs. E.
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 Circulation manager and secretary of literature: Mrs. C. C. Long, 7820
 Reading Rd., Cincinnati 37, Ohio
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 Assistant treasurers: Hazel M. Best (foreign), Marguerite Hawkins
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 Japan, Korea: Margaret Billingsley
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 organize medical program in Sarawak)
 Acting medical secretary: Bruce W. Jarvis M.D.
 Associate secretary: Mrs. F. Roderick Dail

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 Mrs. Wallace N. Streeter
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 Beth Littlejohn, Mrs. E. U. Robinson
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 Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel: Alpharetta Leeper

STAFF

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 Executive secretary: Mary Lou Barnwell

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Recording secretary: Mrs. Charles W. Mead, 5122 Davenport St., Omaha 3, Neb.

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STAFF

OFFICE: 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.

General secretaries: J. A. Engle, Dorcas Hall

See also ¶ 2122

General Section

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Associate director, Editorial Department, and associate editor of WORLD OUTLOOK: Arthur J. Moore, Jr.

Director, Department of Missionary Education: Karl K. Quimby

Director, Department of News Service: W. W. Reid

Associate director, Department of News Service: Leonard M. Perryman

Director, Department of Visual Education: William F. Fore

Director, Department of Field Cultivation, and treasurer: Walter J. Leppert

Director, Department of Student Work: R. Claude Singleton

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Secretary of literature and editor of WORLD OUTLOOK: Dorothy McConnell

Secretary of Wesleyan Service Guild: Lillian A. Johnson

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Assistant to secretary of missionary education: Mrs. Chester B. Knapp

Field workers: Theresa Hoover, Mrs. W. B. Landrum, E. Louise Nichols

¶ 2121. Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields

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STAFF

OFFICE: 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.

Recording secretary: Florence Teague, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn.

Field consultant: Gerald B. Harvey

Educational counselor: Mrs. Floyd Shacklock

Treasurer: H. Burnham Kirkland

¶ 2122. Interboard Committee on Missionary Education

OFFICERS

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Vice-chairman: J. A. Engle

Recording secretary: Helen L. Johnson

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Board of Education: Leon M. Adkins, Royal E. Bennett, G. Alfred Brown, Henry M. Bullock, George Fenstermacher, John O. Gross, Bishop Bachman G. Hodge, Edith F. Welker
Board of Missions: Thoburn T. Brumbaugh, J. A. Engle, Dorcas Hall, Helen L. Johnson, W. Vernon Middleton, B. P. Murphy, Eugene L. Smith, Elizabeth Stinson

STAFF

OFFICE: Box 871 (1001 Nineteenth Ave., S.), Nashville 2, Tenn.

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Staff: Edwin F. Tewksbury, May L. Titus, E. Mae Young, Jennie Youngblood

Treasurer: James F. Blair

¶ 2123. Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work

MEMBERS

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Board of Education: Glenn S. Gothard, William B. Robinson, John Owen Smith, Chauncey D. Wentworth
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Board of Lay Activities: Robert G. Mayfield
Board of Social and Economic Relations: A. Dudley Ward

¶ 2124. Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas

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Woman's Division of Christian Service: Mrs. H. F. Brandt, Mrs. C. P. Hardin, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman
Division of the Local Church: to be elected
Board of Evangelism: to be elected
Board of Lay Activities: Thomas B. Clay, Glendon C. Hodson, John R. Patterson, Sr.
At large: John W. Dickhaut, Richard H. Johnson, Asbury Smith, A. N. Storey, Wilford C. Westenberger

¶ 2125. Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief

OFFICERS

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Chairman: Bishop Frederick B. Newell
Vice-chairman: Henrietta Gibson
Recording secretary: Frank T. Cartwright, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.
Executive committee: Kenneth A. Carlson, Henrietta Gibson, Frank E. Masland, Jr., Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Aura E. Severinghaus, Eugene L. Smith, Louis Spilman, Bishop Hazen G. Werner

MEMBERS

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Division of World Missions: James K. Mathews, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Eugene L. Smith
Woman's Division of Christian Service: Margaret Billingsley, Clara M. French, Ruth Lawrence
At large: Mrs. Robert C. Armstrong, Frank T. Cartwright, Henrietta Gibson, William R. Guffick, Frank E. Masland, Jr., Aura E. Severinghaus, Lee F. Tuttle

STAFF

OFFICE: 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.

General Secretary: Gaither P. Warfield
Treasurer: Lena Knapp

¶ 2126. Board of Education

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Recording secretary: Dennis V. Snapp, Box 303, Paris, Ky.

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Southeastern Jurisdiction: Glenn W. Burton, Virgil Y. C. Eady, James M. Ewing, H. Ellis Finger, Jr., James A. Fisher, Earl G. Hunt, Jr., Glenn C. James, Charles E. Jordan, W. Arthur Kale, R. Jay Lawrence, J. Earl Moreland, John Owen Smith, Dennis V. Snapp, Wilford C. Westenberger; *youth:* Paul D. Cotten
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North Central Jurisdiction: Royal E. Bennett, Harold A. Bosley, George Fenstermacher, Arthur S. Flemming, Wilbur D. Grose, J. O. Hall, Harold W. Hewitt, Francis E. Kearns, William B. Robinson, Walter M. Scheuermann, Matthew D. Smith, Dwight A. Swisher; *youth:* Nancy Lee
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At large: Chester M. Alter, Ira A. Brumley, Claude Garrison, Richard V. Moore, Lester Rumble, Hoover Rupert, Willis M. Tate, Earl V. Tolley, Daniel D. Walker, one to be elected

STAFF

OFFICE: Box 871 (1001 Nineteenth Ave., S.), Nashville 2, Tenn.
Assistant recording secretary: Florence Teague
Treasurer: James F. Blair
 For other staff names and addresses see ¶ 2127-34

¶ 2127. Division of Educational Institutions

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DeWitt C. LeFevre, Richard V. Moore, William B. Robinson, Law Sone, Bishop Donald H. Tippet, Bishop Edwin E. Voigt, Daniel D. Walker

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Associate director: James S. Thomas
Loans, scholarships, and personnel: Stanley H. Martin
Publications: Woodrow A. Geier

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Staff: Jameson Jones (see also ¶ 2131)
Editor of MOTIVE: Roger Ortmaier
Managing editor: Henry Koestline

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Director of in-service training: J. Richard Spann

¶ 2128. Association of Methodist Theological Schools

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Earl Cranston, dean, Southern California School of Theology, Los Angeles, Calif.
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Norman L. Trott, president, Westminster Theological Seminary, Westminster, Md.

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Vice-president: William F. Tolley

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STAFF

OFFICE: Box 871 (1001 Nineteenth Ave., S.), Nashville 2, Tenn.
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Executive secretary: John O. Gross

¶ 2130. Division of the Local Church

OFFICERS

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Recording secretary: W. Arthur Kale, Box 4353, Duke Station, Durham, N.C.

MEMBERS

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Staff: Jessie Mae Beck, R. Delbert Byrum, J. Irwin McDonough, Aileen Sanborn, Jennie Youngblood
Director, Department of General Church School Work: Walter Towner
Staff: Mrs. Lilla Mills Cunningham, Ernest T. Dixon, Jr., Glenn S. Gotthard
Director, Department of the Christian Family: Edward D. Staples
 See also ¶¶ 2122, 2132

¶ 2131. National Conference of Methodist Youth

OFFICERS

Two-year terms, all expiring August, 1957

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Vice-president: Molly O'Steen
Recording secretary: Evelyn Moll
Financial secretary: Edward Stack

STAFF

OFFICE: Box 871 (1001 Nineteenth Ave., S.), Nashville 2, Tenn.
Project secretaries: LeRoy King, H. Donald Winkler
 See also ¶¶ 2127, 2130

¶ 2132. Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations

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Board of Education: Hiel D. Bollinger, M. Earl Cunningham, Harold W. Ewing, J. Emerson Ford
Board of Hospitals and Homes: Olin E. Oeschger, Thelma Ann Reynolds
Board of Temperance: Caradine R. Hooton
Commission on Chaplains: John R. McLaughlin
Association of Methodist Theological Schools: to be elected
Board of World Peace: to be elected
Board of Lay Activities: Edwin A. Briggs
Board of Evangelism: George H. Jones
Department of Ministerial Education: Gerald O. McCulloh, J. Richard Spann
National Conference of Methodist Youth: LeRoy O. King

STAFF

OFFICE: Box 871 (1001 Nineteenth Ave., S.), Nashville 2, Tenn.
Executive secretary: Richard G. Belcher

¶ 2133. Committee on Family Life

MEMBERS

Elected by the Council of Bishops: Jim A. Egan, Bishop Eugene M. Frank, Mrs. Neill Hart, Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, Bishop W. Earl Ladden, Levi Miller, E. Harold Mohn, Mrs. T. Otto Nail, Leon Smith, Bishop Hazen G. Werner
Division of the Local Church: Leon M. Adkins, Harold W. Ewing, Mary Alice Jones, M. Leo Rippy, Edward D. Staples
Editorial Division: Joy Bayless, Henry M. Bullock
Board of Evangelism: Harry Denman, J. Manning Potts
Division of World Missions: Tracey K. Jones, Jr.
Division of National Missions: George L. Hergesheimer
Woman's Division of Christian Service: Thelma Stevens
Board of Lay Activities: W. Rolfe Brown
Board of Temperance: Caradine R. Hooton
Board of Hospitals and Homes: Olin E. Oeschger
Television, Radio, and Film Commission: Harry C. Spencer
The Methodist Publishing House: Lovick Pierce

¶ 2134. Editorial Division

OFFICERS

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Secretary: Ira A. Brumley, Hendrix Station, Conway, Ark.

MEMBERS

Royal E. Bennett, Edwin H. Brown, Ira A. Brumley, Glenn W. Burton, Paul D. Cotten, Arthur S. Flemming, Bishop Nolan B. Harmon, Francis E. Kearns, Bishop Willis J. King, Hoover Rupert, Edith F. Welker, Bishop Lloyd C. Wickes, James H. Wiseman, George G. Ziegler, Jr., one to be elected

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Associate editor: Rosemary Roorbach
Editorial consultant: Jessie Eleanor Moore

Assistant editors: Marion Armstrong, Mrs. W. J. Butterworth, Mattie Lula Cooper, Anna B. Hensley, Mary Frances Pope

¶ 2135. Curriculum Committee

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Recording secretary: Walter N. Vernon, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tenn.

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Ex officio: Leon M. Adkins, Emory Stevens Bucke, Henry M. Bullock, John O. Gross, Lovick Pierce, Horace W. Williams

¶ 2136. Board of Evangelism

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Recording secretary: Ray W. Ragsdale
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MEMBERS

Bishops: J. W. E. Bowen, Gerald H. Kennedy, W. Earl Ledden, William C. Martin, H. Clifford Northcott, Roy H. Short, W. Angie Smith
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Weldon F. Crossland, T. Sterling Evans, Roy T. Henwood, Mrs. E. A. Sayer
Southeastern Jurisdiction: Walter F. Anderson, E. L. Hardin, Edward J. Pendergrass, Mrs. Paul S. Powell
Central Jurisdiction: Mrs. Jennie Ruth Crump, J. S. Cullins, A. S. Dickerson, J. B. A. Dyson
North Central Jurisdiction: Claude W. Cooper, Mrs. G. E. Hartenbower, Silas Hodges, Chester Pennington
South Central Jurisdiction: Kenneth W. Copeland, Cecil Culver, Mrs. Wayne Herrington, C. W. Welch
Western Jurisdiction: Harold N. Nye, Mrs. Russell Patterson, Ray W. Ragsdale, Kazuo Saito
At large: R. Lambuth Archibald, Allen E. Claxton, Earl N. Dorff, Wilbert Dougherty, J. Henry Ernst, George A. Fallon, Foye G. Gibson, Sallie E. McCreless, Mrs. E. V. Moorman, Harry V. Richardson, Thomas W. Spradling, Norman L. Trott
Youth: Bryant Mauk, Glenn Murray, Calvin Rice

STAFF

OFFICE: 1908 Grand Ave., Nashville 4, Tenn.

General secretary: Harry Denman

Directors:

Department of Local-Church Evangelism: C. Lloyd Daugherty, Jr.
Department of Organization and Administration: Joseph H. Edge

Co-operative Department of Youth Evangelism: Howard W. Ellis (see also ¶ 2130)
Department of Community Evangelism: Leslie J. Ross
Department of Spiritual Life: G. Ernest Thomas
Department of United Evangelistic Missions and Methods: Harry L. Williams
Department of Motivation: George H. Jones
Department of District Evangelism: Wayne E. North
Editor of "Tidings" literature: Gordon Pratt Baker
Editor of The Upper Room: J. Manning Potts
Treasurer: Daniel E. Jackson

¶ 2137. Board of Lay Activities

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Recording secretary: Richard W. Campbell, Altoona Trust Bldg., Altoona, Pa.

MEMBERS

Bishops: Matthew W. Clair, Jr., Dana Dawson, Glenn R. Phillips
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Harold E. Burns, Richard W. Campbell, Thomas B. Clay, Melbourne E. Jackins, G. Stanley Lynch, Samuel J. Truscott, W. Carl Walton
Southeastern Jurisdiction: N. C. Beasley, R. Howard Berg, Roy Black, W. E. Bostwick, Charles R. Clegg, Denson N. Franklin, J. Nelson Gibson, Jr., J. Carlisle Holler, A. G. Jefferson, one to be elected
Central Jurisdiction: Dennis R. Fletcher, C. H. Johnson, John R. Patterson, Sr.
North Central Jurisdiction: Robert D. Blue, J. Fred Essig, Fran H. Faber, Glendon C. Hodson, Harold Huff, Norman Kahl, Alvin Neller, Harold C. Phend
South Central Jurisdiction: Niles H. Barnard, Lionel C. Cox, Robert P. Lay, Ray H. Nichols, Harry O. Ritter, Pat Thompson, one to be elected
Western Jurisdiction: Lloyd M. Bertholf, Howard B. Somers, S. Douglas Walters

STAFF

OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.

General secretary: Robert G. Mayfield

Director of stewardship and finance: Edwin A. Briggs

Associate director of Methodist Men: Don L. Calame

Assistant director of Methodist Men: Robert C. Williams

Treasurer and associate director of business affairs: W. Rolfe Brown

Editor of The Methodist Layman: Shelby E. Southard

Associate directors of field work: Earle H. MacLeod, J. Herbert Touchstone

¶ 2138. Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations

OFFICERS

Board of Temperance: Bishop D. Stanley Coors, Lynn H. Corson, Lester L. Keyser, Bishop John Wesley Lord, Bishop Edgar A. Love, Dillon Wesley Throckmorton

Board of World Peace: Ralph W. Sockman, five to be elected
Board of Social and Economic Relations: James P. Browley, Leland Clegg,
 D. Stewart Patterson, Alton B. Raney, Frank M. Templin, Bishop
 Lloyd C. Wicke

11 2139. Board of Temperance

OFFICERS

President: Bishop John Wesley Lord
Vice-presidents: Bishop D. Stanley Coors, Bishop Edgar A. Love
Recording secretary: Lester L. Keyser, Fredericksburg, Texas
Treasurer: Benjamin H. Littleton
Executive committee: Officers and Lynn H. Corson, Bishop Nolan B.
 Harmon, J. D. Slay, Sr., Dillon Wesley Throckmorton

MEMBERS

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Lynn H. Corson, Bishop John Wesley Lord,
 Mrs. Theodore R. Bundy
Southeastern Jurisdiction: Walter Harrison, Bishop Nolan B. Harmon,
 J. D. Slay, Sr.
Central Jurisdiction: Mrs. Mattie R. Bell, Bishop Edgar A. Love, David
 M. Pleasants
North Central Jurisdiction: Mrs. Richard Bauer, Bishop D. Stanley
 Coors, Olin D. Jackson
South Central Jurisdiction: Bishop Dana Dawson, Lester L. Keyser,
 W. E. Price
Western Jurisdiction: Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, Dillon Wesley Throck-
 morton, Ledra A. Williams
At large: William C. Doenges, Arthur Earle, Murray H. Leifler, Ben-
 jamin H. Littleton, Charles Schank

STAFF

OFFICE: 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington-2, D.C.
General secretary: Caradine R. Hooton
Director, Editorial Department: Roger Burgess
Director of building management: J. E. Joiner
Consultants: Bill Hailey, Charles W. Woodward

11 2140. Board of World Peace

OFFICERS

President: Ralph W. Sockman
Vice-president: Bishop F. Gerald Ensley
Recording secretary: Lloyd A. Gustafson, First Methodist Church,
 Mason City, Ia.
Treasurer: Iron S. Motz
Executive committee: Officers and Bishop Matthew W. Clair, Jr., Bishop
 W. Earl Ledden, George W. Carter, Jr., Clarence M. Dannelly, Ervin
 W. Potter, Frank D. Slutz

MEMBERS

Bishops: Matthew W. Clair, Jr., F. Gerald Ensley, W. Earl Ledden
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Robert F. Rich, Ralph W. Sockman
Southeastern Jurisdiction: C. D. Barclift, Clarence M. Dannelly
Central Jurisdiction: George W. Carter, Jr., Mrs. Mary J. Todd McKenzie
North Central Jurisdiction: Lloyd A. Gustafson, John A. Hoadley

South Central Jurisdiction: Gerald C. Mann, Wilburn S. Yoder
Western Jurisdiction: Ervin W. Potter, Daniel E. Taylor
At large: Mrs. James K. Mawha, Melvin K. Medlock, Frank D. Slutz,
 Elwin L. Wilson, one minister and one layman to be elected
Youth: Jack Fish, Keith Tandy

STAFF

OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.
General secretary, international affairs: Charles F. Boss, Jr. 345 E. 46th
 St., Room 801, New York 17, N.Y.
General secretary, administration and promotion: to be elected
Staff: Carl D. Soule, Herman Will, Jr.

11 2141. Board of Social and Economic Relations

OFFICERS

President: Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke
Vice-president: Alton B. Raney
Recording secretary: James P. Brawley, Clark College, Atlanta, Ga.
Treasurer: Mrs. Edward R. Bartlett
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 John C. Satterfield, Sr., Frank M. Templin

MEMBERS

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 Howe, D. Stewart Patterson, Emerson W. Smith, Bishop Lloyd C.
 Wicke, John D. Young; *youth:* Janet Kiehle
Southeastern Jurisdiction: A. M. Anderson, Mrs. T. J. Cottingham,
 C. C. Herbert, Jr., Bishop Bachman G. Hodge, Robert C. Holmes,
 Mark M. Moore, Paul S. Powell, Mrs. R. G. Pullen, John C. Satter-
 field, Sr.; *youth:* Robert Thomason
Central Jurisdiction: James P. Brawley, Timothy B. Echols, Mrs. Clarie
 C. Harvey, Bishop Willis J. King; *youth:* Sandra Morris
North Central Jurisdiction: James W. Bristah, D. T. Jenkins, Farrell D.
 Jenkins, Mrs. E. E. Kinkel, Clarence H. LaRue, Mrs. James Oldshue,
 Frank M. Templin, Bishop Hazen G. Werner, Samuel W. Witwer, Jr.;
youth: Charlotte Carney
South Central Jurisdiction: W. E. Clarke, Leland Clegg, Bishop Eugene
 M. Frank, W. Henry Goodloe, S. Grant Jones, Alton B. Raney,
 Mrs. Frank L. Wright; *youth:* Sue Hudson
Western Jurisdiction: Mrs. Edward R. Bartlett, Raymond Miller, Bishop
 Donald H. Tippet, Monroe Wilcox; *youth:* Robert Howard

STAFF

OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.
General secretary: A. Dudley Ward

11 2142. Board of Hospitals and Homes

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Second vice-president: Mrs. W. W. Foudren
Third vice-president: Leon S. Moore

Fourth vice-president: Owen J. Beadles
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Treasurer: Harry O. Humbert
Executive committee: Officers and C. Cooper Bell, Ralph L. Jester, Hubert Johnson, Mrs. Campbell Keith, William C. Perdue

MEMBERS

Bishops: William T. Watkins, Lloyd C. Wicke
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Harry O. Humbert, Frank Prentzel, Jr.
Southeastern Jurisdiction: C. Cooper Bell, James M. Crews
Central Jurisdiction: Leon S. Moore, Garrett D. Rawlings
North Central Jurisdiction: Mrs. Campbell Keith, William C. Perdue
South Central Jurisdiction: Armour H. Evans, Mrs. W. W. Fondren
Western Jurisdiction: Owen J. Beadles, Richard Lubben
At large: Mrs. Myron S. Collins, Ralph L. Jester, Hubert Johnson, Karl P. Meister

STAFF

OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.

General secretary: Olin E. Oeschger

¶ 2143. Board of Pensions

OFFICERS

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Vice-president: Harry V. Rankin
Recording secretary: Edward A. Smith, 2262 National Bank Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.
Executive committee: Officers and W. Harold Flowers, Claire C. Hoyt, B. Churchill Loveland, Roland P. Riddick, William P. Sharpe, Carl G. Watson

MEMBERS

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Southeastern Jurisdiction: Nathaniel J. Golding, Adlai C. Holler, Millard F. Pierce, Roland P. Riddick, Lowe Watkins, Claude R. Wood
Central Jurisdiction: Clarence F. Ferguson, W. Harold Flowers
North Central Jurisdiction: Clifford M. Fritz, Lester L. Roush, Edward A. Smith, Carl G. Watson
South Central Jurisdiction: Everett W. Freeman, George N. McDonald, Harry V. Rankin, William P. Sharp
Western Jurisdiction: Claire C. Hoyt, Frank Webber

STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.

INVESTMENT OFFICES: Illinois and Maryland Corporations, as above
 Missouri Corporation, 506 Olive St., St. Louis 1, Mo.

General secretary: Charles L. Calkins
Staff: Kenneth F. Thompson, J. Wilson Crichlow, Edge W. Gamble, Ernest F. Tripp
Treasurers: Benjamin F. Frick, Jr., 506 Olive St., St. Louis 1, Mo.; Donald R. McKee

¶ 2144. Commission on Worship

OFFICERS

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Vice-chairman: Bishop W. Earl Ledden
Secretary: Paul Burt, Wesley Foundation, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

MEMBERS

Bishops: W. Earl Ledden, Edwin E. Voigt
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Warren Bugbee, James R. Houghton
Southeastern Jurisdiction: William R. Cannon, M. Randolph Mobley
Central Jurisdiction: Daniel L. Ridout, Mrs. Anna W. Robinson
North Central Jurisdiction: Charles S. Hempstead, William F. Kugel
South Central Jurisdiction: Stewart Clendenin, O. F. Bennett
Western Jurisdiction: Will Hildebrand, Bernard Vessey
At large: Paul Burt, Earl E. Harper, A. A. Thornburg
Book editor: Emory Stevens Bucke

¶ 2145. Commission on Chaplains

OFFICERS

Chairman: Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
First vice-chairman: Bishop A. Frank Smith
Second vice-chairman: Bishop Paul N. Garber
Recording secretary: Albert P. Shirkey, 900 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.; Washington 1, D.C.

MEMBERS

S. Charles Candler, Charles I. Carpenter, Earl N. Contee, Don A. Cooke, James I. Dolliver, Bishop Paul N. Garber, Willard W. Irvine, Bishop Edgar A. Love, Carl McFall, Bishop H. Clifford Northcott, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Harry A. Price, Albert P. Shirkey, Bishop A. Frank Smith, William N. Thomas, Bishop Donald H. Tippet

STAFF

OFFICE: 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C.

General secretary: John R. McLaughlin
Associate secretary: Edwin C. Calhoun
Treasurer: Fred H. Heather

¶ 2146. Commission on Camp Activities

OFFICER

Chairman: Bishop Paul N. Garber

MEMBERS

Bishops Paul N. Garber, Edgar A. Love, H. Clifford Northcott, G. Bromley Oxnam, A. Frank Smith, Donald H. Tippet

STAFF

OFFICE: 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C.
General secretary: D. Stewart Patterson
Treasurer: R. H. Davis

¶ 2147. **Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and Publication**

MEMBERS

Commission on Promotion and Cultivation: Ray Labbitt, H. H. Luetzow, Bishop William C. Martin, Bishop Hazen G. Werner
Television, Radio, and Film Commission: Frederick E. Maser, Bishop Donald H. Tippet
Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information: Holt McPherson
Board of Publication: J. A. Bays, F. Murray Benson

¶ 2148. **Commission on Promotion and Cultivation**

OFFICERS

President: Bishop William C. Martin
Vice-president: Bishop John Wesley Lord
Recording secretary: Theodore C. Mayer, 3346 Sunset Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio

MEMBERS

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Bishop John Wesley Lord, R. Moorman Parker
Southeastern Jurisdiction: Bishop Marvin A. Franklin, Hugh Massie
Central Jurisdiction: Bishop Matthew W. Clair, Jr., Fred C. Nichols
North Central Jurisdiction: Bishop D. Stanley Coors, Theodore C. Mayer
South Central Jurisdiction: H. H. Luetzow, Bishop William C. Martin
Western Jurisdiction: Bishop A. Raymond Grant, B. F. Lehmberg
At large: Harold M. Griffiths, Offie L. Hathaway, Ray Labbitt, Harry O. Ritter, Henry W. Welsh, Claude W. Williams

STAFF

OFFICE: 740 Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.

General secretary: E. Harold Mohn
Associate secretary: Howard Greenwalt
Editor of promotional literature: Oscar L. Simpson
Editor THE METHODIST STORY: Edwin H. Maynard
Treasurer: Thomas B. Lugg

¶ 2149. **Advance Committee**

OFFICERS

President: Bishop Hazen G. Werner
Vice-president: Bishop John W. Branscomb
Recording secretary: Frank E. Baker, 611 Rose Lane, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

MEMBERS

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Frank E. Baker, Philip C. Edwards, Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke
Southeastern Jurisdiction: Bishop John W. Branscomb, George E. Clary, Mrs. R. M. White
Central Jurisdiction: Bishop Matthew W. Clair, Jr., J. D. Newman, Bige Wyntt

North Central Jurisdiction: Glendon C. Hodson, A. V. Long, Bishop Hazen G. Werner
South Central Jurisdiction: Joe B. Scrimshire, Bishop H. Bascom Watts, one layman to be elected
Western Jurisdiction: Bishop A. Raymond Grant, Charles Nowlen, Alstyn Pruner

STAFF

See ¶ 2148

¶ 2150. **Television, Radio, and Film Commission**

OFFICERS

President: Bishop Donald H. Tippet
Vice-president: Bishop Marvin A. Franklin
Recording secretary: Walter N. Vernon, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2 Tenn.
Executive committee: Officers and J. A. Engle, J. C. Love, Jr., J. Manning Potts, Edwin E. Reeves, Ralph Stoddy

MEMBERS

Bishops: Donald H. Tippet, Marvin A. Franklin
Jurisdictional: Wesley E. Brashares (NC), Robert E. Goodrich, Jr., (SC), George D. Hancock (C), Frederick E. Maser (NE), Edwin E. Reeves (W), James W. Sells (SE)
Board of Missions: J. A. Engle, Dorcas Hall, W. Vernon Middleton
Board of Education: Leon M. Adkins, Henry M. Bullock, John O. Gross
Board of Publication: Lovick Pierce, Walter L. Seaman
Board of Evangelism: J. Manning Potts
Board of Hospitals and Homes: Olin E. Oeschger
Board of Lay Activities: Robert G. Mayfield
Board of World Peace: to be elected
Board of Temperance: Caradine R. Hooton
Board of Social and Economic Relations: A. Dudley Ward
Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information: Ralph Stoddy
Board of Pensions: Charles L. Calkins
American Bible Society: Henry H. Ragatz
At large: J. C. Love, Jr., Thomas H. O'Connor, Walter N. Vernon, two to be elected

STAFF

OFFICE: 1525 McGavock St., Nashville 3, Tenn.

General secretary: Harry C. Spencer
Associate secretary and director of program and production: Howard E. Tower
Director of utilization and field service: Royer H. Woodburn
Director of television and radio services and training: William A. Meadows
Treasurer and business manager: Joe W. Davis

¶ 2151. **Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information**

OFFICERS

Chairman: Bishop Richard C. Raines
Vice-chairman: Holt McPherson

Recording secretary: Miron A. Morrill, Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas
 Treasurer: H. Burnham Kirkland

MEMBERS

Robert D. Hill, Umphrey Lee, Holt McPherson, Burton W. Marvin, Miron A. Morrill, Theodore H. Palmquist, Charles C. Parlin, Bishop Richard C. Raines, J. Richard Sneed

STAFF

General secretary and director: Ralph Stoddy, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, N.Y.
 Associates: Arthur West, 740 N. Rush St., Chicago 11, Ill.; O. B. Fanning, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D.C.; William M. Hearn, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tenn.
 Representative to Negro press: Daniel L. Ridout, 828 N. Carrollton Ave., Baltimore 17, Md.

¶ 2152. Association of Methodist Historical Societies

President: Bishop William C. Martin
 Vice-presidents: Bishop Paul N. Garber, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, Bishop Richard C. Raines, Bishop Glenn R. Phillips
 Executive secretary: Elmer T. Clark, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
 Treasurer: Mrs. Louise Stahl, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
 Executive committee: Officers and Albea Godbold (SC), J. Manning Potts (SE), T. A. Stafford (NC), Fred B. Stanger (NE), president of Western Jurisdictional Historical Society and six members at large to be elected; also officers of Section XIII of the World Methodist Council (see ¶ 2154) and of the International Methodist Historical Society

¶ 2153. Commission on Church Union

OFFICERS

Chairman: Bishop Frederick B. Newell
 Vice-chairman: Bishop F. Gerald Ensley
 Secretary: Charles C. Parlin

MEMBERS

Northeastern Jurisdiction: Daniel L. Marsh, Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Charles C. Parlin
 Southeastern Jurisdiction: Mrs. John W. Harbison, Eugene Peacock, Bishop William T. Watkins
 Central Jurisdiction: Bishop Willis J. King, Oliver B. Quick, W. E. Wilson
 North Central Jurisdiction: Rockwell Clancy, Bishop F. Gerald Ensley, T. C. Mayer
 South Central Jurisdiction: Umphrey Lee, Bishop Paul E. Martin, Joe J. Mickle
 Western Jurisdiction: Rufus Baker, C. Raymond Meyers, Bishop Glenn R. Phillips

¶ 2154. World Methodist Council

GENERAL OFFICERS

* indicates members of The Methodist Church

President: Harold Roberts (England)
 Past president: *Bishop Ivan Lee Holt

Vice-presidents: *Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, *Oscar Thomas Olson, *Charles C. Parlin, Bishop S. L. Greene (A.M.E. Church), Mrs. Ottilia de O. Chaves (Brazil), *Bishop Ferdinand Sigg, J. B. Webb (South Africa), James S. Mather (Ceylon), A. Harold Wood (Australia)
 Secretaries: *Elmer T. Clark, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
 E. Benson Perkins, 38 Belle Walk, Birmingham 13, England
 Treasurers: *Edwin L. Jones, L. A. Ellwood (England)
 Executive committee: Officers, *Bishop F. Gerald Ensley, *Bishop Odd Hagen, *Bishop Paul E. Martin, *Bishop Arthur J. Moore, *T. Otto Nall, *Ray H. Nichols, *J. Manning Potts, *Mrs. Ernst Scholz, *Mrs. J. Pount Tillman, *J. Ernest Wilkins, *Bishop Friedrich Wunderlich, and fourteen persons from other churches

OFFICERS OF SECTION XIII

(Section XIII consists of The Methodist Church within the United States)

Chairman: Bishop Paul E. Martin
 Vice-chairmen: Oscar Thomas Olson, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson
 Secretary: Elmer T. Clark, Lake Junaluska, N.C.
 Treasurer: Edwin L. Jones
 Executive committee: Officers and Mrs. Paul Arrington, Robert E. L. Bearden, Harold W. Ewing, James W. Fowler, Jr., Bishop Ivan Lee Holt, Bishop Willis J. King, Dorothy McConnell, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, T. Otto Nall, Andrew H. Phelps, Bishop Glenn R. Phillips, J. Manning Potts, Karl K. Quimby, Mrs. J. Pount Tillman

MEMBERS OF SECTION XIII

Merrill Abbey, Mrs. Paul Arrington, Robert E. L. Bearden, Embree H. Blackard, Bishop John W. Branscomb, Bishop Charles W. Brashares, Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, A. Monk Bryan, William R. Cannon, Elmer T. Clark, Bishop D. Stanley Coors, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, Weldon F. Crossland, Harry Denman, Bishop F. Gerald Ensley, Harold W. Ewing, Elliott L. Fisher, George A. Fowler, James W. Fowler, Jr., Bishop Marvin A. Franklin, Everett W. Freeman, Paul V. Galloway, Paul Hardin, Bishop Nolan B. Harmon, M. Lafayette Harris, Fred G. Holloway, Bishop Ivan Lee Holt, Russell J. Humbert, Charles Harold Jack, Mrs. C. I. Jones, Edwin L. Jones, Bishop Willis J. King, B. Dow Kirkpatrick, Edward G. Latch, Ralph G. Luff, Thomas B. Lutter, Dorothy McConnell, Bishop Paul E. Martin, Thomas B. Mather, Mrs. Charles W. Mead, Bradshaw Mintener, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, T. Otto Nall, Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Ray H. Nichols, John P. Olson, Oscar Thomas Olson, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Charles C. Parlin, Joe J. Perkins, Andrew H. Phelps, Bishop Glenn R. Phillips, John Piper, J. Manning Potts, Thomas M. Pryor, Karl K. Quimby, Bishop Richard C. Raines, Donald E. Redmond, Hoover Rupert, Clarence A. Seidenspinner, Bishop Roy H. Short, John Owen Smith, Ralph W. Sockman, Ralph Stoddy, W. McFerrin Stowe, R. Marvin Stuart, R. Franklin Thompson, Mrs. J. Pount Tillman, William P. Tolley, Joseph King Vinton, Aubrey G. Walton, Bishop William T. Watkins, Mrs. Roscoe M. White, J. Ernest Wilkins, Walter G. Williams, Ralph Lee Woodward

¶ 2155. National Council of the Churches of Christ in America

METHODIST MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD

Leon M. Adkins, Harold A. Bosley, Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, Earl R. Brown, Henry M. Bullock, Bishop Matthew W. Clair, Jr., Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, Harry Denman, Mrs. James M. Dolbey, Bishop Ivan Lee

Holt, Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy, Frank L. Lane, Mrs. C. C. Long, Thomas B. Lugg, James K. Mathews, Mrs. Charles W. Mead, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, J. Earl Moreland, Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Ray H. Nichols, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Theodore H. Palmquist, Charles C. Parlin, Allan Phillips, J. Manning Potts, Bishop John Wesley Lord, Bishop William C. Martin, Bishop Marshall R. Reed, Mrs. W. Napoleon Rivers, Mrs. William E. Sander, Gerald Schlessmann, Charles S. Stinson, Mrs. Wallace N. Streeter, Willis M. Tate, Guy Teterick, Paul D. Womeldorf

¶ 2156. World Council of Churches

METHODIST MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri, Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, Bishop William C. Martin, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Charles C. Parlin

¶ 2157. American Bible Society

Advisory Council members from The Methodist Church named annually by the Council on World Service and Finance

STAFF

OFFICE: 450 Park Ave., New York 22, N.Y.

* indicates members of The Methodist Church

President of board: Daniel Burke
Secretaries:

Research and counsel: *Eric M. North

Promotion and public relations: Robert T. Taylor

Home Department: Richard H. Ellingson

Foreign Department: Paul A. Collier, *Laton E. Holmgren

Translation: Eugene A. Nida

Treasurer: Gilbert Darlington

¶ 2158 Religion in American Life

METHODIST MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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¶ 2159. Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas

OFFICERS

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Vice-chairman: Bishop Fred Pierce Corson

Secretary: Leon T. Moore, 1701 Arch St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Executive committee: Officers and Lucile Colony, Mrs. W. E. Horton, Jr., Harold Lindstrom, Merrill B. McFall, James K. Mathews, Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Eugene L. Smith, Howard W. Yoder

MEMBERS

Bishops: Sante Uberto Barbieri, Newell S. Booth, Fred Pierce Corson, Shot K. Mondol, Frederick B. Newell, Richard C. Raines, W. Angie Smith, Friedrich Wunderlich

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Board of Missions representatives: Margaret Billingsley, Lucile Colony, Tracey K. Jones, Jr., Eugene L. Smith

¶ 2160. Commission on the Jurisdictional System

OFFICERS

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Second vice-chairman: John R. Wilkins

Third vice-chairman: James P. Brawley

Fourth vice-chairman: J. Clinton Hawkins

Fifth vice-chairman: Harold A. Bosley

Recording secretary: Robert E. Goodrich, Jr., First Methodist Church, Ross at Harwood St., Dallas, Texas

Executive committee: Officers, the chairmen of the major study committees, and Edwin L. Jones, Sr., Noah W. Moore, Jr., Dean E. Richardson, Leonard D. Slutz, Mrs. Frances Swayze

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Southeastern Jurisdiction: C. Cooper Bell, R. Lee Blackwell, W. Lemuel Clegg, Leonard H. Cochran, E. Lawrence Dill, Jr., Bishop Paul N. Garber, J. Carlisle Holler, D. Tripp James, Sr., Edwin L. Jones, Bishop Arthur J. Moore, Fred B. Noble, Ben M. Stevens, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Lee Roy Ussery

Central Jurisdiction: James P. Brawley, Mrs. O. B. Coe, Thurman L. Dodson, Mrs. Mary M. Drake, Charles F. Golden, Bishop Willis J. King, Bishop Edgar A. Love, Cosum M. Luster, Noah W. Moore, Jr., Richard V. Moore

North Central Jurisdiction: Harold A. Bosley, Mrs. Frank G. Brooks, Fremont Fletcher, Mrs. Alan K. Laing, Alvin J. Lingren, Chester A. McPheeters, Oscar Thomas Olson, Bishop Richard C. Raines, Bishop Marshall R. Reed, Lawrence Riggs, Paul V. Shenrer, Leonard D. Slutz

South Central Jurisdiction: Fimms A. Crutchfield, Jr., Robert E. Goodrich, Jr., Mrs. Wayne Harrington, J. Clinton Hawkins, Lyman S. Johnson, Lester L. Keyser, Mrs. Clyde Kirk, Bishop William C. Martin, Bishop A. Frank Smith, Charles A. Stuck, William E. Trice, William H. Wilcox

Western Jurisdiction: Raymond E. Balcomb, Mrs. Ted F. Baum, Verne Orr, Sr., Thomas Payne, Bishop Glenn R. Phillips, Mrs. Thomas A. Swayze, Mrs. Mary Rena Taylor, Bishop Donald H. Tippet, John R. Wilkins, Frank S. Williams

¶ 2161. **Quadrennial Commission on Christian Higher Education**

OFFICERS

Chairman: Bishop Paul N. Garber
Vice-chairman: Bishop F. Gerald Ensley
Secretary: Chester M. Alter, University of Denver, Denver 10, Colo.
Treasurer: James F. Blair
Executive committee: Officers and Leon M. Adkins, Bishop J. W. E. Bowen, Henry M. Bullock, Bishop Fred Pierce Corson, Henry L. Dickason, Bishop Eugene M. Frank, Bishop Paul N. Garber, Luther L. Gobbel, John O. Gross, R. H. Hamill, M. LaFayette Harris, Donald E. Holbrook, Glenn C. James, Bishop W. Earl Ladden, Bishop John Wesley Lord, Donald E. Redmond, Alexander K. Smith, G. Herbert Smith, Bishop Roy H. Short, Willis M. Tate, Edmund L. Tink, Bishop Donald H. Tippet, Bishop Hazen G. Werner, Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke, R. Jay Wilson

MEMBERS

All effective bishops resident in the United States, and two from Central Conferences who are in the United States when the commission meets
Northeastern Jurisdiction: Herbert F. Barrett, F. LaMont Henninger, Ralph G. Luff, Leo McKay, Warren G. Odom, John Perkins, Leonard Riggelman, Alexander K. Smith, John H. Starie, Edmund L. Tink
Southeastern Jurisdiction: N. C. Beasley, Roy Black, John C. Boggs, F. Pendleton Gaines, Luther L. Gobbel, W. K. Haddock, L. A. Harrell, Glenn C. James, Joel D. McDavid, Guy E. Snaveley
Central Jurisdiction: J. W. E. Bowen, Jr., Henry L. Dickason, Mrs. Robert K. Gordon, John A. Greene, Robert E. Hunt, J. T. King, Mrs. W. H. McCallum, Levi B. Miller, Jr., J. S. Scott, Sr., S. Marion Weeks
North Central Jurisdiction: C. Maxwell Brown, John Lester Buford, James M. Buxton, J. Fred Essig, R. H. Hamill, Donald E. Holbrook, Rockwell C. Smith, Glen Thompson, Paul Thompson, C. Gilbert Wren
South Central Jurisdiction: Leland Clegg, Matt L. Ellis, A. Leland Forrest, J. Everett McCluhan, Mrs. Kenneth McGill, Joe J. Mickle, Donald E. Redmond, Law Sone, Willis M. Tate, Monroe Vivion
Western Jurisdiction: Chester M. Alter, Lloyd M. Bertholf, Russell E. Clay, Lawrence T. Cooper, Herman Forslund, Martin Frazier, G. Herbert Smith, Carl L. Stocking, R. Franklin Thompson, R. Jay Wilson
Board of Education: Harold A. Bosley, Jim A. Egan, M. LaFayette Harris, Fred G. Holloway, J. Earl Moreland, seven to be elected
Members at large: Howard C. Ackley, M. P. Akers, Hurst R. Anderson, Paul Burt, Carl C. Bracy, Harold C. Case, A. Hollis Edens, Russell J. Humbert, Edwin L. Jones, Dwight E. Loder, Glenn O. Martin, Lawrence L. Pelletier, W. Neal Raver, Cecil W. Robbins, Hubert Searcy, Harry M. Taylor, William P. Tolley, W. W. Whitehouse, Goodrich C. White, one to be elected
General secretaries: Leon M. Adkins, Henry M. Bullock, John O. Gross, Eugene L. Smith

¶ 2162. **Trustees of The Methodist Church**

CORPORATE ADDRESS: 2060 Reading Rd., Cincinnati 2, Ohio

OFFICERS

President: Henry M. Zimmerman
Vice-president and counsel: Reber F. Boulton

Vice-president: Bishop Hazen G. Werner
Secretary-treasurer: Arnold A. Johnson, 104 Rosemont Ave., Ft. Thomas, Ky.

MEMBERS

Terms expire 1960: Reber F. Boulton, Vinson M. Mouser, Alexander K. Smith, Henry M. Zimmerman
Terms expire 1964: Arnold A. Johnson, Thomas B. Lugg, Bishop Hazen G. Werner

¶ 2163. **Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church**

Terms expire 1960: J. B. Doan, James Dolbey, Robert Kennedy, Cecil M. Ogg, B. Brooks Shake, Bishop Hazen G. Werner, W. Frank White
Terms expire 1964: H. F. Dornette, George O. Kitson, Carroll H. Lewis, Paul Momborg, Leonard D. Slutz, J. Otis Young

¶ 2164. **Trustees of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South**

Terms expire 1960: Willard H. Blue, Reber F. Boulton, James C. Dale, Jr., John Q. Schister, M. A. Stevenson
Terms expire 1964: C. F. Lovell, B. P. Murphy, Wilford C. Westenberg, Ben A. Whitmore, W. H. Wiseman

¶ 2165. **Trustees of The Methodist Protestant Church**

Terms expire 1960: F. Murray Benson, J. F. Bryan, Vannort Chapman, J. A. Dudley, Robert S. Jett, E. A. Seizsmith, L. B. Smith
Terms expire 1964: H. O. Deweese, George W. Dexter, John N. Link, F. L. Shaffer, Paul F. Warner, Henry Wells, Jr., David J. Wynne

¶ 2166. **Executive Committee of The Methodist Protestant Church**

Terms expire 1960: George Culberson, B. M. Mitchell, W. C. Scott, Bishop James H. Straughn
Terms expire 1964: C. W. Bates, Roby F. Day, H. O. Deweese, Mrs. S. W. Rosenberger

¶ 2167. **Trustees of The First Methodist Centennial Church of New York (John Street Church)**

Leigh A. Brown, Everett R. Filley, Frederick Kraft, Bishop Frederick B. Newell, Charles C. Parlin, Ellis L. Phillips, Edna Stitt Robinson, Clayton Snyder, Wilson P. Tanner

CHAPTER X

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH

¶ 2199.

MEMBERSHIP, UNITED STATES AND CUBA

<i>Northeastern Jurisdiction</i>	
Bishops (7 effective)	12
Ministers	5,074
Lay full members	1,893,981
Total full members	1,899,067
Preparatory members	351,716
<i>Southeastern Jurisdiction</i>	
Bishops (8 effective)	11
Ministers	6,719
Lay full members	2,560,520
Total full members	2,567,250
Preparatory members	139,577
<i>Central Jurisdiction</i>	
Bishops (5 effective)	8
Ministers	1,694
Lay full members	351,278
Total full members	352,980
Preparatory members	41,778
<i>North Central Jurisdiction</i>	
Bishops (8 effective)	14
Ministers	5,990
Lay full members	2,195,765
Total full members	2,201,769
Preparatory members	449,315
<i>South Central Jurisdiction</i>	
Bishops (7 effective)	11
Ministers	5,201
Lay full members	1,841,009
Total full members	1,846,221
Preparatory members	185,687
<i>Western Jurisdiction</i>	
Bishops (4 effective)	7
Ministers	2,150
Lay full members	575,358
Total full members	577,515
Preparatory members	117,043

Jurisdictions Combined

Bishops (39 effective)	63
Ministers	26,828
Lay full members	9,417,911
Total full members	9,444,802
Preparatory members	1,285,116
Total full and preparatory members	10,729,918

(SOURCES: Bishops, ¶¶ 2101-3; other members, 1956 *General Minutes*)

MEMBERSHIP OVERSEAS

China Central Conference	no report
Hong Kong Mission	400
Taiwan Mission	600
Southern Asia Central Conference	457,506
Philippines Central Conference	78,770
Latin America Central Conference	20,891
Germany Central Conference (est.)	62,978
Northern Europe Central Conference (est.)	26,781
Southeastern Asia Central Conference	47,427
Central and Southern Europe Central Conference (est.)	44,075
Africa Central Conference	120,551
Liberia Annual Conference	19,843
Total members (full and preparatory)	879,822
(SOURCE: Board of Missions)	

MEMBERSHIP, WORLD METHODISM

The Methodist Church, United States and Cuba	10,729,918
The Methodist Church overseas	879,822
Affiliated autonomous Methodist churches (Brazil, Mexico, Korea)	129,400
Other Methodist bodies in the United States	2,514,000
African Methodist Episcopal Church	1,170,000
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	750,000
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	394,000
Others (est.)	200,000
British Methodists (est.)	847,800
South African Methodists	545,000
Australian Methodist Church and missions	350,000
New Zealand Methodist Church	37,600
Methodists in other countries	1,715,000
Total members (full and preparatory)	17,748,540
(SOURCES: The Methodist Church, as above; affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, Board of Missions; other Methodist bodies, <i>The World Methodist Movement</i> [1956], Part II by Elmer T. Clark, secretary of the World Methodist Council)	

LOCAL CHURCHES, UNITED STATES AND CUBA

Number of pastoral charges	23,961
Number of preaching places	39,845
Number of church schools	37,923
Officers and teachers in church schools	586,269
Total enrollment in church schools	6,956,576
Average attendance in Sunday schools	3,622,031

Number of Woman's Societies of Christian Service	31,061
Members of Woman's Societies of Christian Service	1,790,441
Funds raised by Woman's Societies of Christian Service	17,867,876
(SOURCE: 1956 General Minutes)	

EXPENDITURES OF LOCAL CHURCHES

Reduction of principal of debt	\$ 34,491,545
Buildings and improvements	114,937,476
Church-school expenses	15,150,762
Other local expenses	87,549,902
Salaries and expenses of pastors and associates	80,956,894
District superintendents, bishops, conference claimants, etc.	13,228,641
Connectional expenses (conference administration funds)	3,356,020
Apportioned world service and conference benevolences	18,537,163
Other benevolences (special gifts and offerings, W.S.C.S.	
benevolences, Methodist Youth Fund, etc.)	39,955,642

Total expenditures \$413,893,955
(SOURCE: 1956 General Minutes)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Universities	9
Schools of theology	10
Colleges	71
Junior colleges	17
Secondary schools	7
Other schools	3

Total 117
(SOURCE: Division of Educational Institutions)

HOSPITALS AND HOMES

Hospitals	74
Homes for the aged	79
Homes for children	43
Homes for youth, deaconesses, and others	7
Special agencies	5

Total 208
(SOURCE: Board of Hospitals and Homes)

WORLD MISSION WORK

Missionaries serving overseas	1,516
Languages employed	125
Primary and high schools	326
Colleges and universities	50
Theological schools, graduate	23
Bible schools	19
Deaconess training schools	4
Medical colleges	3
Nurse training schools	22
Hospitals	36
Clinics and dispensaries	100
Social centers	101
Publishing houses and bookstores	30
Publications	32

(SOURCE: Board of Missions)

INDEX

The numbers, except as noted below, refer to paragraphs (¶), which are arranged according to the following plan:

1- 99	The Constitution, Articles of Religion, and General Rules
101- 299	The Local Church
301- 499	The Ministry
501- 699	The Conferences
701- 899	Temporal Economy
901-1099	Judicial Administration
1101-1599	Administrative Agencies
1601-1699	Pensions and Permanent Funds
1701-1899	Boundaries
1901-1999	Worship and Ritual
2001-2199	Appendix

Numbers in **bold-faced** type indicate main references or definitions. Numbers in parentheses refer to subsections within paragraphs. Numbers in *italic* type are preceded by *page* or *pages* and refer to page numbers of items not included under a paragraph number.

A

Abandoned church property,
188, 354, 362 (11-12), 706

Abingdon Press, 2113. *See also*
Book editor

Abolition of the Central Jurisdiction, 26 (note)

Absence on leave, lay employee, 1658 (5)

Absentee church membership,
119-20, 125

Abstinence:
From alcoholic beverages, 95,
207, 278 (3), 345 (16), 969,
1521-22, 1528, 1533, 2020
(111 C), 2022-23
From tobacco, 306 (5), 322
(5), 2022 (5)

Acceptance of apportionment,
142 (7), 147, 767, 795, 804

Accommodation admissions and ordinations, 651 (33)

Accounting:
Agencies, administrative, 737
(6)

Accounting, cont'd:

Certified or recognized public accountant, 729, 737 (2), 1183
Conference treasurer, 808
See also Auditing

Accreditation of schools, 307
(1), 316 (1), 318 (1), 323-
25, 342, 432 (7), 651 (25-26),
1332-91. *See also* University
Senate

Addresses:

Agencies, 1120 (8). *See also*
Directory
Bishops, 1120 (8), 2101
Members of local church, 352
(25)
Ministers, 1120 (8)
Officers of local churches, 362
(4, 10, 15e)

Administration, errors of, 949

Administration Fund. *See* General Administration Fund

Administration of a Mission,
591-93, 606, 610-11, 615-16,
1206, 1238, 1631 (9), 1637

Administrative agencies. *See*
Agencies, administrative

Admission into church membership. See Reception into church membership

Admission of preachers, 22, 635

Accommodation arrangements, 651 (33)
Educational requirements, 323-27, 651 (25)
From other churches, 411-15, 651 (23-24), 671, 1630 (8)
Into full connection, 341-45, 403, 648, 651 (28), 671, 1924, 2045-48, 2100
On trial, 321-31, 393, 651 (25), 671, 695 (3), 1374 (1), 1924, 2041, 2044, 2100
Readmission, 362 (3), 376, 379, 432 (8), 651 (34), 693, 1630 (15)
Ritual, 1924

Adult:

Baptism, 107, 1912, 2100
Classes, officers and teachers of, 246 (3)
Conference director of adult work, 1448, 1452
District director of adult work, 687, 1448
Division (church school), 235, 243-44, 246 (2); 352 (5, 7, 22c)
Educational program, 1396-98, 1436
Funeral service, 1918
Home members, 243
Missionary education, 1287
Reception into church membership, 107-9, 1914
Young adults, 209, 234, 244 (1), 352 (20), 1397

Advance, 757-62, 2016 (2)

Committee, 750 (2), 753-62, 2149
Conference specials, 761
District specials, 761 (4)
Expenses, 762 (3)
Promotion, 750 (1), 752
Quotas not to be set, 762 (1)
Reports to committee, 759 (4), 760 (3)
Special-gift voucher, 746
Specials, 149 (3), 257 (5), 735, 738, 745-46, 750 (1), 752, 757-62, 805, 2016 (2)
Treasurer, 762 (2)
Week of Dedication, 760. *For details see Week of Dedication*

Advisory committees, Board of Education, 1333-34

Advisory members

Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1546
Board of World Peace, 1536
Commission on Chaplains, 1572
Department of Ministerial Education, 1372 (1)

Advocate: See *Central Christian Advocate*; *New Christian Advocate*

Affiliate member, 112, 132, 1916

Affiliated autonomous churches, 46, 427, 600-605, 1205, 1207, 1885, 2005 (3), 2011 (2a), 2012 (2), 2199

Africa:

Annual Conferences, etc., 1860, 1864 (6), 1384
Areas, episcopal, 2103
Central Conferences, 1874-75, 2004 (1), 2005 (2)
Maps of The Methodist Church in, pages 509, 513

Age:

Church Conference members, 155 (5), 160, 186 (2), 196-97
Church school, divisions, 244 (1), 1402-3
Quarterly Conference members, 138 (3), 153 (3)
Retirement, 368-69, 436, 438, 1617
Stewards, 208
Trustees, 159, 183, 711 (1), 728
Youth members of agencies, 1172 (5), 1326, 1430, 1443, 1468, 1529, 1532, 1536, 1546, 1550 (1)

Aged, home for. See *Home*

Agencies, administrative, 8

(8), 15 (3), 19 (3), 556, 666, 781-84, 1101-8
Accounting, 737 (6)
Annual Conference, 651 (4, 14), 666-80, 793, 804, 807-8, 812
Annuity rates, 737 (10)
Appeals for funds, 743, 748, 810-11
Appointment, episcopal, of staff, 432 (4)
Auditing, 737 (6)

Agencies, administrative,

cont'd:
Bishop's expenses as member of, 773
Budgets, 737 (2, 3)
Buildings and real estate, 1107, 1115 (7)
Central Conference, 19 (3), 556, 580-81
Co-ordination to avoid duplication of activities or programs, 737 (3), 742, 754, 1111, 1115 (1), 1160-63, 1516-19, 1576-79, 1595 (2)
Council of Secretaries, 1595 (2)
Debts, 533, 581 (4)
Directory, 2110-87. *For list of general agencies see under Directory*
Dismissal of employees, 1065
Election of members, 15 (3), 528, 1101-6. *See also under name of agency*
Executives, 783 (2)
Finances, 581, 737, 741-48, 765, 768, 781-84, 804, 807-8, 812, 1107, 1115 (7), 1120 (2)
Fiscal year, 737 (6), 738
General Conference authority over, 8 (8, 13)
Investments, 737 (7, 9)
Jurisdictional, 15 (3), 533
Membership, limitations on, 1101-4, 1111
National Council of Churches, relations with, 1596 (3)
News services, 1589
Organization, 783 (1)
Pension of employees, 1658-59
Personnel policies, 783 (2), 1065, 1103, 1120 (2-3), 1658-59
Printing by Methodist Publishing House, 1154
Promotional publications, 753 (1-3)
Real estate, 1107, 1115 (7)
Studies to effect improvements and economies, 782
Titles of executives, 783 (2), 1120 (3)
Treasurers, 737 (8), 746 (4)
Uniform policies and organization, 737 (6-7, 10), 783, 1120 (2-3)
World service, 737, 741-48, 781-84, 2100
Youth members, 1404-6
For details see under names of agencies (boards, commis-

cont'd:
sions, committees, councils, societies, etc.)

Aid societies, preachers', 432 (4), 1610 (1)

Alabama-West Florida Conference, 1741, 2111

Alaska Mission, 1213, 1849, 2102

Alcoholic beverages, abstinence from, 95, 207, 278 (3), 345 (16), 669, 1521-22, 1523, 1533, 2020 (III C), 2022-23

Algeria, 1864 (6)

Amendments to the Constitution, 10, 22, 507

American Bible Society, 278 (8), 432 (4), 689 (6), 1531 (2), 1595 (1), 1598, 2157

American Life, Religion in, 1599, 2158

Angola Conference, 1860 (1), 1874, 2103

Annual Church Conference, 32, 197-200. See also Church Conference

Annual Conference, 4 (4), 21-25, 621-80

Acceptance of apportionments, 767, 795, 804

Accommodation admissions and ordinations, 651 (33)

Adjourned session, 627

Admission into ministerial membership, 22, 321-45, 411-15, 635. *For details see Admission of preachers*

Agencies. See *Agencies, administrative: Annual Conference*

Amendments to the Constitution, vote on, 10, 22

Appeal to, 362 (14), 716 (3), 724

Appointment of preachers, 431 (4), 432-33, 437 (1)

Apportionments by, 795-802, 822-23, 826-28, 1623-24

Apportionments to, 651 (12), 737 (4), 738, 767, 771, 778, 804-5

INDEX

Annual Conference, cont'd:
 Approved supply pastors, 314-20, 622, 645, 1631. *For details see* Approved supply pastor
 Area system, 37-38, 440, 526, 560, 2100, 2102-3
 Attendance required, 319, 630
 Auditing, 640, 651 (3), 729, 803, 807
 Basic salary plan, 801, 827
 Benevolences, 732, 761-62, 791, 793-97, 804, 808. *See also* Advance; World service
 Board of:
 Christian Social Relations, 678
 Education, 1441-55. *For details see* Conference Board of Education
 Evangelism, 651 (4a), 675, 755 (2), 1478-80
 Hospitals and Homes, 651 (4a, 16), 675, 1561, 1567 (2)
 Lay Activities, 651 (4a), 675, 755 (2), 1503-7
 Ministerial Training and Qualifications, 669-74. *For details see* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications
 Missions, 651 (4, 14b), 675, 755 (2), 761, 762 (5), 1295-1307
 Pensions, 651 (4a, 14a), 1611 1612 (8), 1623-27, 1656 (6)
 Social and Economic Relations, 678
 Temperance, 651 (4), 678, 1532-33
 Trustees. *See* Annual Conference: Trustees
 Boards and committees, establishment of, 666. *See also* Board: Annual Conference
 Bonding of fiscal officers, 640, 651 (3), 729, 803, 807
 Boundaries, 15 (4), 19 (4), 29, 534, 1715-1871. *For details see under name of conference*
 Business, 645-52, 1301, 1441, 1504, 1610 (5), 1631 (10)
 Called session, 627
 Central Conference authority over, 566
 Church extension, 641, 761, 1213, 1303
 City or district missionary society, 1223-24

Annual Conference, cont'd:
 Claimants. *See* Pension regulations
 Commission on:
 Christian Higher Education, 2018 (3a)
 Christian Vocations, 651 (4a, 14d), 670, 675-77
 Minimum Salaries, 651 (4a)
 Promotion and Cultivation, 651 (4b), 755
 Town and Country Work, 651 (4h), 1231, 1295, 1306
 World Service and Finance, 651 (4g, 14c), 755 (2-3), 791-812, 826-28, 1623 (4)
 Worship, 1569 (11)
 Commissions and committees, 651 (4), 666-68, 675-77, 680, 755
 Committee of Investigation, 651 (4d, 20), 923, 931-36, 939
 Committee on:
 Conference Relations, 365, 367, 377-78, 637, 646-47, 651 (4b), 668, 1617 (1, 4, 5)
 Local-Church Goals, 2017 (1)
 Proportional Payment of Ministerial Support, 1611 (8)
 Research and Survey, 1304
 Reserve Pensions, 651 (4a), 1645 (9)
 Social and Economic Relations, 1550 (3)
 World Peace, 675, 678, 1542
 Complaints. *See* Judicial administration
 Composition, 21, 621-24
 Conference Council, 679
 Deaconess Board, 651 (4i), 1252-54. *See also* Deaconess
 Deaconesses, 431 (5), 624, 651 (39c)
 Deacons, election of, 391, 651 (29)
 Debts, 634
 Definition, 2100
 Delegates to General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, 7, 13, 17, 23-25, 501, 505-7, 509, 517-19, 626, 542-43
 Department of Town and Country Work, co-operation with, 1229 (5)
 Director of:
 Adult work, 1448, 1452
 Children's work, 1448, 1452

INDEX

Annual Conference, cont'd:
 Student work, 1370, 1448
 Youth work, 1448, 1452
 Distributing Committee, 1609
 District agencies and officers elected by 651 (4c, e), 695 (1), 716 (2), 721, 1448, 1510 (1)
 District Conference, authority over, 686-87, 691
 District property, 716 (2)
 Educational institutions, 1382-91
 Educational societies, 1359
 Elders, election of, 401, 651 (31)
 Elections, 22-25, 391, 401, 505, 518, 543, 607, 628-29, 651 (1, 4, 29, 31), 663, 666-69, 695 (1), 711 (1), 716 (2), 721, 791, 803, 931, 1231 (1, 4) 1295, 1302 (1), 1367 (2), 1430, 1441, 1443-44, 1510 (1), 1532, 1542, 1550 (2), 1561, 1583 (2)
 Executive session of ministerial members, 646
 Field Committee, 1202-4
 Finance, 634, 677, 711-12, 729, 732, 791-828
 General Conference authority over, 8 (3), 22
 Historical Society, 663, 1591 (1a)
 Hospitals and homes, 1558 (1), 1559, 1561
 Incorporation, 625, 651 (2)
 Institutions, 711 (2), 728-29, 807, 810-11, 1382-91, 1551, 1558 (1), 1559, 1561, 1571
 Interboard Council, 679
 Interdenominational relations, 1438
 Journal, 656-60. *For details see* Journal, conference
 Judicial administration. *See* Judicial administration
 Jurisdictional Board of Missions, representative on, 1291
 Lay leader, 651 (17), 755 (2), 1291, 1295, 1491, 1498, 1503-7
 Life insurance for ministerial members, 1630 (10)
 Local-church property, 188-89
 Local preachers, 307-11, 362 (3-4), 393 (4), 403 (4), 432 (8), 1051. *For details see* Local preacher

Annual Conference, cont'd:
 Location of minister, 310, 362 (3), 374-79, 432 (8), 636-37, 651 (38)
 Membership:
 Lay, 21-23, 25, 143 (4), 209, 505 (2), 543, 627, 649, 687
 Minimum, 15 (4), 564
 Ministerial, 21-24, 321-45, 374-82, 411-15, 635-39, 645-48, 651 (19-46), 691-93, 1924, 2100. *See also* Admission of preachers; Minister; Ministry
 Merger of, 1609 (1, 4, 6)
 Methodist Publishing House appropriations to, 1124
 Methodist Youth Fellowship. *See* Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship
 Minimum salaries for pastors, 826
 Ministerial qualifications. *See* Admission of preachers
 Minutes, 656, 746 (3)
 Missionaries, 393 (5), 403 (5), 659
 Missionary secretary, 1302 (1)
 New local church, 641
 Nominating committee, 791, 1231 (1)
 Nominations by, 1529, 1546
 Objectives, 650, 651 (47)
 Organization, 625-30, 641, 645, 2007
 Outside jurisdiction or Central Conference, 331, 586, 589-93, 1252 (1b)
 Pastor's report to, 131 (2), 148, 250, 352 (28), 362 (13), 630, 760 (6), 761 (3-5), 763, 764 (5), 829, 1226, 1413 (2)
 Pension funds, 1612
 Pensions. *See* Pension regulations
 Permanent Fund, 711 (2)
 Place of meeting, 627
 Powers and duties, 10, 22-25, 188-90, 309, 314-16, 320, 331, 364-65, 367, 369, 374-82, 509, 634-41, 728, 1115 (1), 1172 (2)
 Presiding bishop, 37-38, 431 (2), 437 (1), 626-28, 738, 755 (2), 803
 Privilege of the floor, 622-24
 Program of sessions, 645-52, 1301, 1441, 1504, 1610 (5)

Annual Conference, cont'd:
 Promotion of benevolences, 755
 Property, 354, 535, 581 (4),
 711-12
 Provisional, 606-12
 Quadrennial Committee on Local-Church Goals, 651 (4b),
 2017
 Records, 529, 656-63, 672, 674,
 676, 729, 746(3), 1629. *See*
also Journal, conference
 Reports required by, 362 (10-
 12), 365, 577, 646, 649-51,
 672, 674, 691, 711 (5),
 716 (2), 738, 736, 793-96,
 798-99, 801, 807, 811-12,
 830, 1254 (7), 1442, 1449,
 1550 (2). *See also* Annual
 Conference: Pastor's report
 to
 Retired ministers, 367-71, 379,
 435 (2), 559 (2), 687, 1610
 (6), 1617. *See also* Pension
 regulations
 Rules of procedure, 634
 Secretary, 629, 656-62. *For de-*
tails see Conference secretary
 Service records, 661, 1629, 1631
 (6)
 Special days set by, 296 (3)
 Special sessions, 627
 Specials, Advance, 761
 Statistician, 352 (28), 629,
 651 (1, 5-6), 662, 1629 (4)
 Student religious work, 1367
 (2), 1370
 Supernumerary ministers, 365,
 687, 1630 (14), 2100
 Television Ministry Fund
 Committee, 764 (2)
 Television, Radio, and Film
 Commission, 1583
 Termination of ministerial
 membership, 310, 328, 374-
 82, 651 (27, 38), 950-52,
 1630 (17)
 Transfer to another jurisdic-
 tion, 8 (12), 26 (note), 28.
See also Local church:
 Transfer
 Traveling ministry, 321-85
 Treasurer, 792, 803-8. *For de-*
tails see Conference treasurer
 Trustees, 176 (7), 178, 188,
 190, 651 (4 f), 706, 711-12,
 716 (2), 1235 (7)
 Vote on ministerial relations
 reserved to ministers, 22,
 322, 341, 646
 Wesley Foundation, 1367 (2)

Annual Conference, cont'd:
 Woman's Society of Christian
 Service, 1256. *For details*
see Conference Woman's So-
 ciety of Christian Service
Annuity:
 Abandoned or discontinued
 local church, 188 (3)
 Agency or institution writing.
See Annuity: Special gift
 subject to
 Benefits (pension), 774, 777,
 1618 (2-6), 1620-22, 1623
 (1), 1625-31
 Child's, 1621, 1630 (4, 13),
 1643 (8), 1649
 Claim, 365, 369, 379, 435 (2),
 559 (2), 1610 (4), 1616-22,
 1624 (6), 1626-28, 1630-31,
 1645 (10), 1659 (1), 1665
 Credits:
 Income, 1643 (5-7), 1646,
 1647 (2-3), 1648 (1), 1652
 (1), 1656 (4, 8-9)
 Service, 1624 (3), 1643 (4,
 7), 1645 (7-8, 10), 1647
 (1), 1648 (1), 1651 (1b),
 1652 (1), 1653 (5c), 1656
 (3, 7-9, 12b)
 Deductions from, 1624 (3, 5)
 Income, 1643 (5), 1646 (7),
 1647 (2-3), 1648, 1652, 1656
 (4c, 5, 8-9)
 Joint and survivorship, 1658
 (6b)
 Lay employee's, 1653 (1b, 6)
 Lien on, 1610 (3), 1634
 Payment of, 1623 (2, 4), 1625,
 559 (2), 1635 (2)
 Ratio:
 Pension, 1613 (8), 1618 (5),
 1623 (1-2), 1631 (4),
 1655 (2)
 Special-gift agreement, 737
 (10), 1612 (5-6)
 Responsibility of conference,
 agency, or institution, 651
 (15), 1618 (1-4, 9), 1623
 (7), 1631 (7), 1636-37
 Service, 1643 (4), 1645 (7-
 10), 1647 (1), 1648, 1651
 (1b), 1652-53, 1656 (8-9,
 12b)
 Special conference claimant,
 1611 (9), 1631
 Special gift subject to, 362
 (11), 737 (10), 745-46, 1196,
 1211, 1235 (8-9), 1241, 1612
 (5-6)

Annuity, cont'd:
 Widow's, 1620, 1630 (13),
 1643 (7), 1648, 1652 (4)
See also Pension regulations
Apostles' Creed, 102, 1904
**Appeal, financial, 743-48, 759-
 64, 810-11**
 Advance specials. *See* Advance
 Authorization for, 737 (5), 743,
 748, 1115 (4)
 Board of Temperance, 1527
 (2)
 Building fund, 180, 271
 Division of the Local Church,
 1409
 Emergency, 737 (5), 748, 1115
 (4)
 Every-member canvass, 257
 (7), 267 (1), 292 (2)
 Fellowship of Suffering and
 Service, 763
 Fund-raising agent, 271
 Hospitals and homes, 1558
 (4), 1559
 Local church, 180, 257 (5-7),
 261-66, 267 (1, 9), 271-72
 Methodist Committee for
 Overseas Relief, 1312-13
 Promotion, 750-64
 Report to Council on World
 Service and Finance, 781
 Special gifts and offerings, 744-
 47, 759-64, 1312-13. *See*
also Advance
 Television Ministry Fund, 764
 Week of Dedication, 760
 Wesley Foundation, 1368
 World service, 215 (3), 250
 (1), 251 (5), 261, 752, 755
**Appeal, judicial, 9 (3), 570,
 1022-60**
 Bishop, 525, 910, 925, 927,
 930, 1041-43
 Building, ruling on, 724, 1107,
 1115 (7)
 Committee on Appeals, 15 (6),
 19 (6), 913, 935, 937
 Court, 1026-32, 1045-49, 1057-
 60
 Deaconess, 1053-54
 Decision on question of law,
 43, 362 (14), 547, 904-8,
 918, 1033-36
 Local preacher, 1051-52
 Member of church, 1056-60
 Property, 184, 535, 531 (4),
 716 (3)
 Traveling preacher, 1045-49
 Verdict of trial court, 1025-60
Applicant. See Candidate
**Appointment of preachers, 362
 (3), 431 (4), 432-33, 437
 (1), 651 (50-51), 1618 (1-4)**
 Approved service for annuity
 claims, 1618 (1-4), 1619-22,
 1623 (6, 7), 1643 (2e),
 1645 (7, 8, 10)
 Associate pastors, 431 (4)
 Between conference sessions,
 362 (3), 432 (2)
 Changes, 432 (2)
 Chaplains, 393 (6), 403 (6)
 Definition, 2100
 Detached service, 432 (4-6).
See further Special appoint-
 ment, minister in
 District superintendents, 361,
 432 (3)
 Limitations on, 314-17, 353,
 362 (3), 363, 365, 377-78,
 432 (1, 3, 5-8), 437 (1)
 Local preachers, 304 (3-4), 305,
 309, 315 (2), 352 (9, 13),
 362 (2-3), 431 (4)
 Minimum salary schedule, 826
 (2)
 Mission superintendents, 1216
 Missionaries, 393 (5), 403 (5)
 Pastors, 304 (4), 305, 351, 362
 (3), 432 (1, 8)
 Requirement for every travel-
 ing preacher, 432 (9)
 Special, 432 (4-6). *See fur-*
ther Special appointment,
 minister in
 Supply pastors, 304 (4), 305,
 309, 314-17, 351, 362 (3),
 432 (8)
 To attend school, 431 (6), 432
 (7), 651 (44), 668, 671,
 1618 (2e)
Apportionments:
 Acceptance of, 142 (7), 147,
 804
 Annual Conference authority
 and procedure, 795-802, 822-
 23, 826-28, 1623-24
 Basic salary fund, 827 (3-5)
 Benevolences, world service
 and conference, 142 (7), 145
 (8), 147, 261, 795-97, 804.
See also Apportionments:
 World Service Fund
 Bishop's support. *See* Appor-
 tionments: Episcopal Fund
 Circuit, 145 (8), 147-48
 Committee on (circuit), 145
 (8)

INDEX

Apportionments, cont'd:
 Conference Board of Education, 1450
 Conference claimants, 147, 261, 651 (11), 798, 822-23, 828, 1623-24
Definition, 2100
 Determination of, 749, 767, 771, 778
 District superintendents' support, 147, 261, 801-2, 822-23, 827 (3-5)
 Episcopal Fund, 147, 261, 738, 771, 799, 805, 822-23
 General Administration Fund, 147, 738, 767, 800, 805
 Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, 738, 778, 800, 805
 Jurisdictional Conference, 795, 1439
 Minimum salary fund, 651 (9), 822-23, 826 (3)
 Ministerial support, 798-99, 801-2, 826-28
 Missionary society, city or district, 1226
 Overpayments, 804-5
 Pastor's salary, 145 (8), 148, 215 (2)
 Proportional payment (pro-rating), 267 (7), 771, 802, 823, 1611 (8), 1623-24, 1630 (1)
 Special gifts not applied on, 745
 Special offerings, credit for, 747
 Sustentation fund, 828
 To Annual Conferences, 651 (12), 737 (4), 738, 767, 771, 778, 804-5
 To districts, 795-97, 800-802, 822-23, 826-27
 To local churches, 145 (8), 147-48, 261
 To pastoral charges, 142 (7), 147, 795-802, 822-23, 826-28, 1623-24
 World Service Fund, 737 (4), 738, 749
Appropriations:
 Division of National Missions, 1211, 1215-17, 1222, 1225-26, 1229 (3), 1232, 1241, 1277
 Division of World Missions, 1196
Approved service (for pension credit), 1618 (1-5)

Approved supply pastor, 8
 (2), 304 (4), 307, 314-20, 671, 695 (3), 2100
 Admission on trial, 325 (3). *See also* Admission of preachers: On trial
 Appointment, 314-17, 362 (3), 432
 Conference relation, 314, 319-20, 325 (3), 622, 630, 645, 651 (39b, 43)
 Courses of study, 317-18, 1372 (3), 1374, 2041-48
Definition, 314, 2100
 Discontinuance, 320
 Educational requirements, 306-7, 317-18
 Evangelist, 353, 363
 From other churches, 316
 Full-time, 307 (2), 317 (3), 318 (1), 651 (21c), 827 (1-2)
 List of, 651 (21)
 Ordination, 391-92, 393 (3), 401-2, 403 (3), 404-5, 411 (1)
 Part-time, 307 (2), 317 (2), 318 (2) 651 (21b)
 Pension, 651 (22), 1623 (5), 1631
 Relief, 1631 (5)
 Retired, 651 (43), 1631
 Student, 307 (1), 316 (1), 317 (1), 318 (1b), 651 (21)
 Trial of, 945, 957-65, 1051-52
See also Local preacher; Pastor
Arbitration, Committee of
 (boundary changes), 534
Architecture:
 Approval of plans, 180 (4b, 7), 723, 1235 (2), 1237
 Church-school facilities, 1401 (1)
 Commission on Worship, 1569 (2)
 Counsel for local churches, 1237, 1401 (1)
 Department of, 1235 (11), 1237, 2117
 Hospitals and homes, 1558 (1)
 Interdenominational Bureau of, 1569 (12)
 Joint Committee on, 1414
Archives of Annual Conference, 656, 663, 1591 (1b)

INDEX

Area Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 1590
Area Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1533 (5)
Area, episcopal, 37-38, 440, 526, 560, 2100, 2102-3
Argentina Conference, 1885 (1), 1878, 2103
Arkansas-Louisiana Area, 2102
Armed Forces, chaplains, 432 (4), 1571-72. See also Chaplain
Articles of Religion, 61-87
 Adaptation of Art. XXIII to other countries, 576
 Doctrines contrary to, basis for trial, 921, 944, 951, 962
 History of, pages 5-8, 3
 Restrictive Rule, 9 (1)
Ash Wednesday, 760 (1)
Asia:
 Affiliated autonomous churches, 1885
 Annual Conferences, etc., 1861-62, 1869-71
 Areas, episcopal, 2103
 Central Conferences, 1876, 1881-82, 2011 (2a)
Askings. See Apportionments
Assembly:
 Educational, 1398 (2), 1408, 1429, 1442
 National Council of Churches, 1596 (2)
 Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1251, 1256 (6)
 World Council of Churches, 1597 (2)
Assignment of bishops, 20 (5), 37-38, 435 (3), 436 (4), 437 (1), 439-41, 446, 526, 546, 560 (1), 604, 775-76, 2005, 2102-3
Assimilating new members, 222 (15)
Associate general secretary, 783 (2b)

Associate pastor, 138 (1), 153 (1), 207, 215 (2), 431 (4), 771
Associate secretary, 502, 783 (2b)
Association, Jurisdiction Deaconess, 1252 (3)
Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 765, 1591-93, 2152
 Annual Conference Historical Society, 1591 (1a)
 Executive committee, 1591 (2a), 2152
 Executive secretary, 1591 (2b, d, 3a, b) 2152
 Finance, 1591 (4)
 International Methodist Historical Society, 1591 (1a, 2a)
 Jurisdictional Historical Society, 1592
 Officers, 1591 (3), 2152
 President, 1591 (2b, 3), 2152
 Treasurer, 1591 (3a), 2152
 Vice-president, 1591 (3a), 2152
 World Methodist Council, 1591 (1b, 2a)
Association of Methodist Hospitals & Homes, National, 1561 (3), 1565
Association of Methodist Theological Schools, 1415 (2), 2128
Atlanta Area, 2102
Atlantic Coast Area, 2102
Attendance, church, 97, 222 (6), 1599, 1914-15
Audio-visual:
 Equipment, 1442
 Materials, 233 (3), 257 (1), 1424, 1581-83
Auditing, 270, 640, 651 (3), 729, 737 (2, 6), 739, 781, 793, 803, 807, 1188
Austria Mission, 1864 (8), 1875, 2007 (2), 2103
Authority to speak for The Methodist Church, 512

INDEX

- Automobile expenses, pastor,** 829
- Autonomous churches** *See* **Affiliated autonomous churches**
- Auxiliaries, Women's** (hospital and homes), 1563
- B**
- Baccalaureate addresses,** 773
- Ballot, vote by,** 146 (1), 501, 505, 518, 628, 695 (2-4), 901, 973, 1238 (4), 1432, 1507 (1)
- Baltic and Slavic Conference,** 1864 (1), 1879, 2008 (2), 2103
- Baltimore Area,** 2102
- Baltimore Conference,** 1715, 2102
- Baluchistan,** 2007 (2)
- Bank account,** 267 (4), 1611 (11). *See also* **Depository for funds**
- Baptism:**
 Authority to administer, 318, 320, 392, 402
 Certificate, 127
 Children, 127-28, 1910-11
 Church membership, 102, 107, 111, 127-28, 1910-12
 Definition, 2100
 Pastor's duty, 352 (2, 24)
 Register of names, 128, 132, 352 (24)
 Report of, 312, 365, 370
 Ritual, 1910-12
 Significance of, 76-77
- Basic salary plan,** 801 827
- Belgian Congo,** 1860 (2, 6)
- Belgian Conference,** 1863 (1), 1875, 2008 (1), 2103
- Beneficiary of trust fund,** 708, 711 (5)
- Benevolences,** 147, 261, 741-64, 793-97
 Advance specials. *See* **Advance Apportionments. See Apportionments**
- Benevolences, cont'd:**
 Conference, 732, 761-62, 791, 793-97, 804, 808
 District Conference, 215 (3), 689
 District superintendent's duties, 147, 362 (15g), 689, 762 (4), 797
 Fellowship of Suffering and Service, 763
 Local church, 142 (7), 145 (8), 147, 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5-7), 261, 266, 268, 288, 1226
 Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 1312-14
 Pastor's duties, 352 (15, 22h, 27-28), 762 (4), 1226
 Promotion, 743-48, 750-64
 Special gifts and offerings, 744-47, 759-64, 1312-13. *See also* **Advance**
 Television Ministry Fund, 764
 Week of Dedication, 760
 World service and conference, 804. *See also* **Benevolences: Local church; World service**
- Bengal Conference,** 1871 (1), 1882, 2103
- Bequests:**
 Agencies, administrative, 737 (11), 1170, 1183-85, 1235 (8), 1337 (1), 1409, 1467, 1527 (2), 1557, 1605
 Annual Conference, 711 (2-4), 1610 (2)
 Committee on Wills and Legacies (local church), 145 (12)
 Committee on Wills, Bequests, and Gifts (general), 737 (11)
 Council on World Service and Finance, 737 (11), 785
 Institutions, 1558 (3)
 Local church, 145 (12), 157 (3), 105, 188 (3), 362 (11)
 Special gifts, 744-46
 Trustees of The Methodist Church, 705-7
- Bible:**
 Church school, 241, 1396, 2027
 Conference, 1442
 Minister's use of, 345 (9), 352 (21), 1920-24
 Reading, 97, 222 (10)
 Society, 432 (4). *See also* **American Bible Society**

INDEX

- Bible, cont'd:**
 Sunday, Universal, 278 (8), 296 (2)
 Women, 573
- Birmingham Area,** 2102
- Bishop, 34-41, 421-46, 2100**
 Addresses of bishops, 1120 (8), 2101
 Administration. *See* **Episcopal administration**
 Agency membership, 750 (2), 758 (1), 1102, 1104-6, 1111, 1115 (1), 1116, 1129, 1172 (1), 1195, 1210, 1230 (1), 1231 (1), 1240 (3), 1262 (3), 1255 (3), 1268, 1291, 1326, 1327 (1), 1372, 1415 (2-3), 1417 (2), 1418, 1430, 1468, 1491, 1523, 1529, 1536, 1546, 1550 (1), 1553, 1568 (1), 1572, 1581 (2), 1586
 Amenability, 435-36, 446 (2), 525, 775-76, 922
 Appeal to Judicial Council, 525, 910, 925, 927, 930, 1022-43
 Appointments by, 145 (2), 351, 393 (5-6), 403 (5-6), 431 (4-6), 432-33, 437 (1), 826 (2), 1643 (2e)
 Area system, 37-38, 440, 526, 560, 2102-3
 Assignment of, 20 (5), 37-38, 435 (3), 436 (4), 437 (1), 439-41, 446, 526, 560 (1), 546, 604, 775-76, 2005, 2102-3
 Baccalaureate addresses, 773
 Central Conference, 20, 422-24, 427, 438, 441-45, 448 (3), 544-47, 557-61, 2004, 2012, 2018 (1a), 2103. *See also* **Bishop: Overseas**
 College (jurisdictional). *See* **College of Bishops**
 Committee on Episcopacy, 526
 Conference of Methodist Bishops, 427
 Conscription of, 35, 423, 431 (9), 442, 445, 1922
 Council. *See* **Council of Bishops**
 Credentials, 435 (2), 445
 Decisions on questions of law, 40, 43, 362 (14), 547, 908-9, 913, 1034, 1036 (1)
 Definition, 2100
 Disability, 424, 435 (3), 775
 Discontinuance, 8 (5)
 Duties, 37-38, 40-41, 188-89, 352 (13), 362 (2), 363, 364, 374, 391, 393 (5-6), 401, 431-34, 602 (2), 716 (3), 764 (1), 803, 924, 931, 933-37, 939, 949, 996, 1009, 1021, 1240 (3), 1219, 1224, 1231 (1), 1238 (4), 1302 (2), 1444, 1534. *See also* **Bishop: Agency membership**
 Election of, 8 (10), 15 (2), 19 (2), 20 (1), 35, 422-23, 441-42, 445, 557-58
 Expenses, 769-70, 772-73, 776
 Health, 435 (3), 775
 Honoraria, acceptance of, 773
 Jurisdictional Conference, 38, 435-36, 439-40, 524-26, 1105, 2102
 Lectures, 773
 Legal counsel, 1120 (4)
 Mission administration, 1206, 1238 (3-5)
 Missionary, 446, 773
 Number of bishops, 439, 441, 557, 2004-5
 Office addresses of bishops, 1120 (8), 2101
 Ordination by, 391, 401, 431 (9), 1920-21
 Overseas, 1172 (1). *See also* **Bishop: Central Conference**
 Pensions, 435 (2), 769-70, 772, 774-77, 1661
 Preaching missions, 773
 Presiding over conferences, 8 (11), 20 (3), 41, 431 (2), 437 (1), 524
 Provisional Central Conference, 446 (3)
 Questions of law. *See* **Decisions on questions of law**
 Residence, 440, 526, 560, 712, 770, 772
 Resignation of, 435 (2)
 Retired, 8 (5), 435-38, 770, 772, 774-76, 1661, 2101-3
 Salary, 769-70, 772, 774 (2), 775-76
 Secretary, 1659
 Support, 8 (5), 15 (2), 19 (2), 261, 435 (3), 559, 769-77, 821-23
 Term episcopacy, 445, 553, 559 (2)
 Transfer of, 38
 Travel, official, 427, 770, 773
 Trial of, 9 (3), 570, 910, 921-30, 950-52, 1022-43
 Widow and orphans of, 769-70, 772, 774, 777, 1661

Blanks. *See* Forms

Board:

Annual Conference, 651 (4), 14), 666, 679, 711 (2), 1120 (8), 1643 (1, 2d), 1658 (1b). *See also* Agencies, administrative: Annual Conference. *For individual boards see* Conference Board of Christian Social Relations, etc.
Central Conference, 19 (3), 43 (4), 556, 580, 906-7, 914
Definition, 783 (1a)
Directors. *See below* Board of Directors

District, 1120 (8). *See* District General, 8 (8), 15 (3), 43 (4), 502, 533, 781-84, 902, 906-7, 914, 1065, 1101-5, 1120 (8), 1618 (4), 1643 (1, 2d), 1658 (1b), 1659 (1-2). *See also* Agencies administrative. *For individual boards see below* Board of Education, etc.

Jurisdictional, 15 (3), 43 (4), 533, 902, 906-7, 914, 1120 (8), 1643 (1, 2d), 1658 (1b). *For individual boards see* Jurisdictional Board of Education, etc.

Official (local church), 206-16. *For details see* Official Board
Pastoral charge. *See* Charge
Board of Lay Activities
Stewards. *See* District Board of Stewards; *also* Official Board
Trustees. *See* Trustees

Board of Directors:

Incorporated local church, 166 (1), 177
Wesley Foundation, 1367 (2)

Board of Education, 1324-1455, 2126

Advisory committees, 1333-34
Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Board of Education

Assistant editors, 1423, 2134
Audio-visual materials, 233 (3), 1425

Budget, 1333 (2), 1336 (1), 1337, 1378 (2)

Campus-Church Relations Committee, 1365 (2-3)

Church school, 241-251, 1396-97. *For details see* Church school

Board of Education, cont'd:

Church-school publications, 1132, 1143, 1145-53, 1421-26, 2134-35. *See also* Literature, church-school

Colleges, Methodist. *See* Division of Educational Institutions

Committee on Co-operation and Counsel with Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1247 (4), 1300

Committee on Family Life, 1417 (1), 2133

Continuance of corporations, 1328

Co-operation with other agencies, 753 (4), 1160-63, 1230 (1), 1289, 1325, 1339, 1351 (1), 1360, 1412-18, 1544

Correspondence courses of study, 1372 (3), 1374 (3), 1398 (2), 2041

Curriculum Committee, 1143, 1146-47, 1287, 1425-26, 2135

Curriculums, 248 (5)

Department of Collego and University Religious Life, 1351 (3), 1363, 2127

Department of Ministerial Education, 1351 (3), 1372-76, 2041, 2127. *For details see* Department of Ministerial Education

Department of Secondary and Higher Education, 1351 (3), 1353, 2127

Division of Educational Institutions, 1333-38, 1351-76, 1384-91, 2018 (2), 2127. *For details see* Division of Educational Institutions

Division of the Local Church, 1333-38, 1396-1410, 2130.

For details see Division of the Local Church

Editor of church-school publications, 1132, 1143, 1145-53, 1422-26, 2134

Editorial Division, 1145-53, 1333-38, 1421-27, 2134. *For details see* Editorial Division

Educational societies, 1359

Elections, 1326-27, 1336 (1), 1383, 1415 (4), 1422

Executive committee, 1327 (6), 1332-34, 1426 (2)

Forms, approved, 362 (15e)

General Committee on Family Life, 1417, 2133

Board of Education, cont'd:

General secretaries, 1327 (5), 1333 (3), 1335-36, 1405 (2), 1426 (2), 1436-37, 1448, 1536, 2127, 2130, 2134

Incorporation, 1328-30

Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1160-63, 2114

Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 876, 1372 (4), 1375, 1415, 2132

Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, 1289, 2124

Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1249 (3), 1274, 1286-88, 1413, 1426 (2), 2122

Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230 (1), 2123

Joint Committee on Architecture, 1414

Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1283-85, 2121

Joint Committee on Materials for Training for Church Membership, 1418

Joint Committee on Temperance Education, 1416

Jurisdictional board. *See* Jurisdictional Board of Education

Local-church commission, 231-51. *For details see* Commission on Education

Meetings, 1327-28, 1330, 1332-33, 1336 (2)

Membership, 1326, 2126

Methodist Conference on Christian Education, 1400

Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 296 (1d), 1356 (3)

Methodist Youth Fellowship, 244 (4), 1403. *For details see* Methodist Youth Fellowship

National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1172 (5), 2131, 1326, 1404-5, 1415 (2), 1468, 2131

Negro education, 250 (3), 1340, 1357

Nominating committee, 1327 (1-2)

Organization, 1325-39, 2126

Pastors' schools, 1372 (3), 1374 (2)

Powers and duties, 1325, 1328-31

Board of Education, cont'd:

President, 1161, 1327 (2-3), 1332-34, 1422, 2126

Purpose, 1324

Quadrennial Commission on Christian Higher Education, 2018 (1), 2161

Quorum, 1330, 1333 (1)

Race Relations Sunday, 250 (3), 296 (1b), 1340, 1356 (3)

Recording secretary, 1327 (2-3), 1333, 2126

Records, church-school, 233 (4)

Reports to, 1333 (2-4), 1336 (1)

Representatives on other agencies, 1252 (3), 1581 (2), 1595 (1)

Scholarships, National Methodist, 250 (4), 1358

Schools. *See* Division of Educational Institutions

Schools of theology, 1351, 1352 (4), 1372 (1-2), 1374 (3), 1378-80, 1390. *See also*

Schools of theology

Secretarial council, 1336 (3)

Special days, 250, 296, 1340, 1356 (3). *See also* Special days

Standards, 233 (3), 244 (3), 251, 362 (15e), 1351 (2), 1367, 1372 (4), 1396, 1401 (2-4), 1414, 1451 (1)

Stewardship education, 753 (4)

Student Loan Fund, 250 (4), 1358

Student religious work, 1364-70, 1404-6, 1429, 1442, 1448

Support, 1337

Training schools, 1426 (1), 1429

Treasurer, 1333 (2-3), 1413 (2), 2126

University Senate, 1382-91. *For details see* University Senate

Vacancies, 1326-27

Wesley Foundation, 233 (6f), 1351 (1), 1364-69, 1429, 1442, 1448

World Service Sunday, 250 (1), 257 (5), 296 (1a)

Board of Evangelism, 1464-85, 2136

Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Board of Evangelism

Call to Evangelism (resolution), 2029

INDEX

Board of Evangelism, cont'd:

- Chairman, 1469, 2136
- Conference evangelists, 353, 363, 432 (6), 1474 (2), 1480
- Crusade effect on, 2016 (1)
- District committee, 221 (1), 1481-83
- Election by, 1468
- Executive committee, 1470
- General secretary, 1418, 1471, 1536, 2136
- Incorporation, 1465
- Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1160-63, 2114
- Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, 1289, 2124
- Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230 (1), 2123
- Joint Committee on Materials for Training for Church Membership, 1418
- Jurisdictional board. *See* Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism
- Local-church commission, 220-22. *For details see* Commission on Membership and Evangelism
- Organization, 1468-71, 2136
- Powers and duties, 1467, 1473-75
- Purpose, 1464, 1466
- Recording secretary, 1470, 2136
- Report to, 119
- Representatives on other agencies, 1404 (2), 1415 (2), 1417 (2), 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
- Support, 1472, 1485
- Treasurer, 1470, 2136
- Upper Room, The*, 222 (10), 1472, 1485, 2021 (2), 2136
- Vice-chairman, 1470, 2136

Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1551-67, 2142

- Affiliation, 1556
- Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Board of Hospitals and Homes
- Board of Managers, 1553-54, 1558 (5-6)
- Code of ethics, 1566
- Elections, 1553-55
- Executive committee, 1555 (2), 2142
- General secretary, 1554 (2), 1555 (2), 2142
- Golden Cross, 278 (9), 296

Board of Hospitals and Homes, cont'd:

- (3a), 651 (16), 1558 (4), 1559
- Incorporation, 1552
- Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 1415 (2-3)
- Interboard committee, with Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1247 (3), 1567 (1)
- Jurisdictional board. *See* Jurisdictional Board of Hospitals and Homes
- Local-church committee, 278 (9)
- Meetings, 1555 (1)
- Membership, 1553
- National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes, 1561 (3), 1565
- Officers, 1554
- Personnel Bureau, 1564
- Powers and duties, 1558
- President, 1554 (1), 2142
- Purpose, 1551
- Recording secretary, 1554 (1), 2142
- Representatives on other agencies, 1252 (3), 1417 (2), 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
- Support, 1557
- Treasurer, 1554 (1), 2142
- Vacancies, 1553
- Vice-president, 1554 (1), 2142
- White Cross. *See* Golden Cross
- Woman's Auxiliaries, 1563

Board of Lay Activities, 1490-1515, 2137

- Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Board of Lay Activities
- Charge board, 289
- Commission on Stewardship and Finance (local church), 261-72. *For details see* Commission on Stewardship and Finance
- District board, 286, 689 (7), 1508-10
- Elections, 1494
- Financial system, standardized, for local churches, 809
- General secretary, 1494, 1536, 2137
- Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1160-63, 2114
- Interboard Committee on Min-

INDEX

Board of Lay Activities, cont'd:

- istry to Neglected Areas, 1289, 2124
- Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1229 (7), 1230 (1), 2123
- Jurisdictional board. *See* Jurisdictional Board of Lay Activities
- Lay leaders, 288, 1507, 1510. *For details see* Lay leader
- Local-church program, 215 (4), 263, 278 (10), 286-92
- Methodist Layman, The*, 2137
- Methodist Men, 221 (1), 232, 234, 291-92, 352 (7), 1511
- Organization, 1491, 1494, 1497, 2137
- Powers and duties, 1490, 1492, 1495
- President, 1497, 2137
- Program of lay activities, 1492
- Purpose, 1490
- Recording secretary, 1497, 2137
- Representatives on other agencies, 1415 (2), 1417 (2), 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
- Secretaries, 1494, 2137
- Stewardship, 257 (7), 262-63, 689 (7), 753 (4), 1492, 1512-14
- Support, 1496
- Treasurer, 1497, 2137
- Vacancies, 1494
- Vice-president, 1497, 2137

Board of Managers:

- Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1553-54, 1558 (5-6)
- Board of Missions, 1171-77

Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, 669-74. *For details see* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications

Board of Missions, 1166-1308, 2115-21

- Advance specials, 745-46, 757-59, 2116 (2)
- Administration of a Mission, 591-93, 606, 610-11, 615-16, 1206, 1238, 1631 (9), 1637
- Affiliated autonomous churches, 46, 427, 600-605, 1205, 1207, 1885, 2005 (3)
- Aim of missions, 1166
- Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Board of Missions
- Appropriations, 1171, 1176 (5), 1187

Board of Missions, cont'd:

- Architecture. *See* Department of Architecture; Joint Committee on Architecture
- Authority, 1170
- Board of Managers, 1171-77
- Bonding of employees, 1188
- Budgets and estimates, 1185-87
- Central Conferences, relation to, 548, 556, 581 (3-4), 2012
- Charter, 1170
- Christian Education in Foreign Fields, Joint Committee on, 1283-85, 2121
- Church commission, 219, 256-57. *For details see* Commission on Missions
- Church Extension, Section of. *See* Section of Church Extension
- City or district missionary societies, 155 (1), 173 (2), 432 (4), 1218-27
- Commission on Deaconess Work, 1252-54, 2119
- Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas, 2012, 2159
- Constitution, 1169-92
- Co-operation with other agencies, 1160-63, 1230, 1283-90, 1325, 1369, 1544
- Correlation among divisions, 1177, 1199 (2), 1239, 1280-81
- Country work. *See* Department of Town and Country Work
- Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work
- Department of Architecture, 1235 (11), 1237. *See also* Joint Committee on Architecture
- Department of Christian Social Relations, 1244 (1c), 1248, 2118
- Department of City Work, 1215, 1217-28, 2117
- Department of Finance and Field Service, 1235 (11), 1236, 2117
- Department of Goodwill Industries, 432 (4), 1215 (1c), 1232, 2117
- Department of Research and Surveys, 1215, 1233, 2117
- Department of Town and Country work, 1215, 1229-31, 2117
- Department of Work in Foreign Fields, 1244 (1a), 1245, 2118

Board of Missions, cont'd:

Department of Work in Home Fields, 1244 (1b), 1247, 2118
 Directors of departments, 1180 (2)
 District Missionary Institute, 1300
 Division of National Missions, 1178-79, 1208-39, 2117.
For details see Division of National Missions
 Division of World Missions, 1178-79, 1193-1207, 2116.
For details see Division of World Missions
 Duties of, 1176
 Editors, 1180 (1), 2118, 2120
 Elections, 1170, 1172 (3-5), 1174-75, 1176 (6), 1179 (1), 1180, 1196, 1201, 1211-12, 1240 (3), 1241, 1243, 1269
 Executive committee, 1175
 Executive secretaries, 1179
 Field Committees, 1202-4
 Foreign missions. *See* Department of Work in Foreign Fields; Interdivision Committee on Work in Foreign Fields; Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields; also Division of World Missions
 Fund-raising, 271, 1236 (1-2)
 Funds, 1183-88
 General executive committee, 1175
 General Missionary Council, 1281
 General secretaries, 1179
 Home missions. *See* Department of Work in Home Fields; Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields; Section of Home Missions
 Incorporation, 1167-68
 Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1160-63, 2114
 Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, 1289, 2124
 Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1249 (3), 1274, 1286-88, 1413, 1426 (2), 2122
 Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1229 (7), 1230, 2123
 Interdivision Committee on Foreign Work, 1199 (2)

Board of Missions, cont'd:

Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields, 1239
 Joint Commission on Co-operation and Counsel, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 1290
 Joint Committee on Architecture, 1414. *See also* Department of Architecture
 Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1283-85, 2121
 Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel, 1189-90, 1252 (1), 2115
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1178-80, 1268-77, 2120. *For details see* Joint Section of Education and Cultivation
 Jurisdictional board. *See* Jurisdictional Board of Missions
 Lay missionaries, 623, 1189-92
 Local-church organizations, 219, 256-57, 281-82
 Membership, 1172, 1256 (6), 2115
 Methodist Committee for overseas Relief, 746 (2), 759-60, 763, 805, 1311-15, 2125
 Mission councils, 1207 (3)
 Missionaries, 1189-92. *For details see* Missionary; also Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel
 Missionary Councils, 1281
 Missionary education. *See* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education; Joint Section of Education and Cultivation
 Missionary work in cities, 1217
 Missions, 1206, 1238
 National missions. *See* Division of National Missions
 Object, 1169
 Officers, 1174-75, 2115
 Overseas relief, 746 (2), 759-60, 763, 805, 1311-15, 2125
 Permanent funds, 1183-84
 Powers and duties, 550, 589, 591, 1168, 1174-78
 President, 1174, 2115
 Provisional Annual Conferences, 586, 589-93, 606-12
 Publications. *See* Joint Section of Education and Cultivation; Woman's Division of Christian Service
 Recording secretary, 1174, 2115

Board of Missions, cont'd:

Representatives on other agencies, 1415 (2-3), 1581 (2), 1595 (1), 2018 (1)
 Retirement, 1181
 Rural work. *See* Department of Town and Country Work; Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work
 Salaries, 1179 (2)
 Secretarial Council, 1280
 Secretaries, 432 (4), 1174, 1179, 1180 (2), 2115
 Section of Church Extension, 1214, 1235-37, 2117
 Section of Home Missions, 1214-33, 2117
 Special gifts, 257 (5), 745-46. *See also* Advance
 Supervision, episcopal, in foreign fields, 2103
 Support, 1184-87, 1250. *See also* Advance; World service
 Time of meeting, 1173
 Town and Country Work. *See* Department of Town and Country Work; Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work
 Treasurer, 1180 (2), 1181-83, 1188, 2115
 United affiliated autonomous churches, 605
 Vacancies, 1170, 1172 (2, 5), 1196, 1211, 1241, 1269
 Vice-president, 1174, 2115
 Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1178-79, 1240-58, 2118. *For details see* Woman's Division of Christian Service
 World missions. *See* Division of World Missions

Board of Pensions, 1601-6,

2143
 Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Board of Pensions
 Annuities (special-gift agreements), 1605. *See also* Annuity
 Authorization, 1602 (4), 1604
 Bequests, 1604 (4-5), 1605
 Bishops' pensions, 774 (1)
 Chaplains Pension Fund, 1618 (2h)
 Clearinghouse, 431 (7), 1634 (2-3), 1636
 Committee on Pension Legislation, 1605
 Composition, 1602, 2143
 Date of meeting, 1602 (5)

Board of Pensions (cont'd):

Devises, 1604 (4-5)
 Division of funds, 1607
 Endowment funds, 1604 (3), 1605
 Executive committee, 1603 (2), 2143
 Funds, permanent, 1604-9
 General secretary, 1603, 2143
 Gifts, 1604 (4, 5), 1605
 Illinois Corporation, 1601
 Joint Contributory Annuity Fund, 1618 (2c, h)
 Lay Employees Pension Fund, 1658-59
 Maryland Corporation, 1601
 Meetings, 1602 (5)
 Membership, 1602 (1-2)
 Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, 1642-57. *For details see* Ministers Reserve Pension Fund
 Missouri Corporation, 1601
 Offices, 1601 (2-3)
 Organization, 1601-3, 2143
 Partial Reserve Pension Fund, 1656
 Place of meeting, 1602 (5)
 Pledges, 1610 (2, 3)
 Powers and duties, 1604-6, 1613, 1617 (4), 1618 (2c, h, 6), 1621 (3), 1622 (2), 1624 (4), 1629, 1632 (9), 1635, 1636 (2-3), 1637, 1642 (1), 1645 (9), 1651, 1652 (2, 4), 1653 (2-6), 1655-59
 Quorum, 1602 (6)
 Representatives on other agencies, 1252 (3), 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
 Service records, 1629
 Support, 1606
 Treasurers, 1603
 Vacancies, 1602 (2), 1603 (1)
See also Pension funds; Pension Regulations

Board of Publication, 1123-57, 2112

Abingdon Press, 2113
 Book editor, 1132-33, 1143, 1147, 1418, 1425-26, 1568 (1), 2113
 Buildings and real estate, 1156-57
Central Christian Advocate, 278 (8), 288, 1144 (3-5), 2113
 Chairman, 1130, 1135, 2112
 Church-school publications,

INDEX

Board of Publication, cont'd:
 1132, 1143, 1145-53, 1421-27,
 1428-29, 1441, 2134
 Curriculum Committee, 1143,
 1146-47, 1425-26, 2135. *See*
also Curriculum
 Direction of Methodist Pub-
 lishing House, 1123-28
 Editors, 1143-53, 2113
 Elections, 1137, 1422
 Executive committee, 1135-36,
 2112
 Executives, 1137-1142, 2113
 General church periodicals,
 1144, 2113
 Incorporation, 1127-28. *See also*
 Methodist Publishing House
 Interagency Commission on
 Cultivation, Promotion, and
 Publication, 1576-79, 2147
 Membership, 1129, 2112
 Methodist Protestant Church,
 1126, 1127 (1-2)
 Methodist Publishing House,
 1121-57, 2113 *For details*
see Methodist Publishing
 House
 Organization, 1129
 Place of meeting, 1130
 Powers and duties, 1131-52,
 1148-52, 1156-57
 President (publisher), 432 (4),
 1123, 1129, 1135, 1138, 1140-
 42, 1147, 1151, 1427, 2113
 Real estate and buildings,
 1156-57
 Records, 1131
Religion in Life, 1133, 1143,
 2113
 Reports required by, 1139
 Representatives on other agen-
 cies, 1531 (2)
 Salaries, 1132, 1148, 1149
 Secretary 1135, 2112
 Special meetings, 1130
 Tenure of office, 1129
 Time of meeting, 1130, 1136
 Vacancies, 1129
 Vice-chairman, 1135, 2112

**Board of Social and Economic
 Relations, 1546-50, 2141**
 Advisory members, 1546
 Annual Conference board, 678,
 1550 (2)
 Commission on Christian So-
 cial Relations (local church),
 219, 276, 1550 (3)
 Co-operation with other agen-
 cies, 1547

**Board of Social and Economic
 Relations, cont'd:**
 Executive committee, 1548,
 2141
 General secretary, 1548, 2141
 Interboard Commission on
 Christian Social Relations,
 1516-19, 2138
 Jurisdictional board, 1550 (1)
 Local-church committee, 276,
 278 (11), 1550 (3)
 Meetings, 1549 (1)
 Membership, 1546, 2141
 President, 1548, 1549 (1), 2141
 Purpose, 1547
 Recording secretary, 1548, 2141
 Representatives on other agen-
 cies, 1230 (1), 1404 (2),
 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
 Resolutions of General Confer-
 ence, 2020, 2024 (10), 2025-
 26
 Social Creed, 2020
 Staff, 1548, 2141
 Support, 1549 (2)
 Treasurer, 1548, 2141
 Vacancies, 1548
 Vice-president, 1548, 2141
 Youth members, 1546, 2141

**Board of Temperance, 1521-35,
 2139**
 Abstinance, 95, 207, 278 (3),
 969, 1521-22, 1528, 2020
 (III C), 2022-23
 Annual Conference board, 651
 (4), 678, 1532-34
 Appeals for funds, 1527 (2)
 Assistant treasurer, 1525 (1)
 By-laws, 1527 (1)
 Commission on Christian So-
 cial Relations (local church),
 219, 276
 Commitment Day, 278 (3),
 1528
 Executive committee, 1525 (2),
 2139
 General secretary, 1416, 1525
 (1), 1526, 2139
 Interboard Commission on
 Christian Social Relations,
 1516-19, 2138
 Joint Committee on Temper-
 ance Education, 1416
 Jurisdictional board, 1529-31
 Local-church committee and
 program, 149 (2), 207, 276,
 278 (3), 969
 Meetings, 1527 (1)
 Object and duty, 1521-22,
 1528

INDEX

Board of Temperance, cont'd:
 Organization, 1523-26, 2139
 President, 1525 (1), 2139
 Properties, 1527 (2)
 Quorum, 1527 (1)
 Recording secretary, 1525 (1),
 2139
 Representatives on other agen-
 cies, 1404 (2), 1415 (2),
 1417 (2), 1581 (2), 1595
 (1)
 Resolutions of General Confer-
 ence, 2020 (III C), 2022-23
 Secretary, jurisdictional, 1531
 Support, 1527 (2-3)
 Treasurer, 1525 (1), 2139
 Vacancies, 1524
 Vice-president, 1525 (1), 2139

**Board of World Peace, 1536-
 44, 2140**
 Advisory members, 1536
 Annual Conference committee,
 678, 1542
 Commission on Christian So-
 cial Relations (local church),
 219, 276
 Co-operation with other agen-
 cies, 1544
 Days, special, 278 (7)
 Elections by, 1536, 1540
 General secretary, 1540, 2140
 Interboard Commission on
 Christian Social Relations,
 1516-19, 2138
 Jurisdictional committee, 1541
 Local-church committee, 276,
 278 (7), 1543
 Meetings, 1538
 Membership, 1536, 2140
 Purpose, 1537
 Representatives on other agen-
 cies, 1404 (2), 1415 (2),
 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
 Resolutions of General Confer-
 ence, 2020 (III F), 2024
 Staff, 1540, 2140
 Support, 1539
 Vacancies, 1536
 World Order Sunday, 278 (7),
 296 (2d), 1543
 Youth members, 1536, 2140

**Bolivia Conference, 1866 (1),
 1878, 2103**

Bombay Area, 2103

**Bombay Conference, 1871 (2),
 1882, 2103**

**Bond, surety, 640, 651 (3), 729,
 739, 792, 807, 1141, 1188,
 1311, 1333 (2), 1433, 1440,
 1611 (12)**

**Bonus (as ministerial compensa-
 tion), 1624 (6)**

**Book Agents of the Methodist
 Episcopal Church, South,
 1126, 1127 (1, 2)**

**Book editor, 1132-33, 1143,
 1147, 1418, 1425-26, 1568
 (1), 2113**

**Book of Worship for Church
 and Home, The, 1569 (4)**

**Books, 257 (2), 278 (8), 352
 (18), 382 (15f), 1122, 1143,
 1146, 1271, 1276, 1287, 1425.
See also Abingdon Press;
 Book editor; Publications**

Borneo, 1870 (1)

Borrowing funds:
 Annual Conference, 634, 769,
 801, 1612 (3)
 Central Conference, 581 (4)
 Jurisdictional Conference, 533
 Local church, 157 (1), 166 (3),
 171-73, 180 (4e, 8-10),
 723-24, 1235-36, 1303 (5),
 1612 (3). *See also* Debt;
 Loans

Boston Area, 2102

Boundaries:
 Annual Conferences, etc., with-
 in Central Conferences, 19
 (4), 29, 564, 1860-72
 Annual Conferences, etc., with-
 in jurisdictions, 15 (4), 29,
 532, 1715-1851
 Central Conferences, 16, 27,
 1874-82, 2103
 Circuits, 433
 Distribution of equities when
 changed, 184, 534, 712, 716
 (3), 1609
 Districts, 431 (3), 716 (3)
 Episcopal areas, 440, 526, 560,
 712, 2102-3
 Jurisdictions, 8 (12), 26, 28,
 532, 1714, 1740, 1766, 1792,
 1815, 1841, 2102
 Provisional Central Conferences,
 539

INDEX

Boy Scouts, 244 (5), 292 (3)

Brazil, Methodist Church of, 601-2, 1885

Breaking ground for church, ritual, 1931

Broadcasting and Film Commission (National Council of Churches), 1581 (4d, 6)

Brotherhood, men's, 1399. *See also* Methodist Men

Budget:
Agencies, general, 737 (2, 3)
Board of Missions, 1185-87
Church school, 233 (6g), 245 (4)
Church-school publications, 1149
Conference benevolence, 732, 791, 793-97, 804, 808
Conference Board of Education, 1447
Conference Board of Missions, 1307
Episcopal, 732, 770-71
General administration, 732, 765-68
Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1288
Interdenominational co-operation, 732, 778
Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1285 (2)
Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1434
Jurisdictional Board of Missions, 1294
Local church, 142 (7), 147-48, 221 (3), 233 (6g), 266-68, 1236 (3)
Week of Dedication, 760 (3-5)
World service, 732, 737 (4), 741-42, 748-49
World service and conference benevolence, 732, 795, 804

Buenos Aires Area, 2103

Building:
Abandoned, 188
Agencies, administrative, 1107, 1115 (7)
Architecture. *See* Architecture
Breaking ground for, ritual, 1931
Camp, 1442

Building, cont'd:
Church school, 233 (6h), 245 (3), 1236 (1), 1401 (1), 1936
City church, 1217
City or district missionary society, 1220, 1227
College or university, dedication of, ritual, 1938
Committee, 105, 180
Committee on Church Property, 278 (6)
Construction, 157 (2), 164 (5), 180-81, 722-24, 1220, 1235-37
Cornerstone, ritual for laying, 1932
Dedication of, 181, 1933, 1936-39
District Board of Church Location and Building, 180, 188-89, 651 (4e), 721-24
District parsonage, 716, 801
Episcopal residence, 712
Financing, 157 (1), 164 (5-6), 166 (3), 171-73, 180 (4e, 8-10), 271, 723-24, 1235-36, 1303 (5), 1612 (3)
Fund, 164 (5-6), 271, 1236 (1)
Home, dedication of, ritual, 1939
Hospital, dedication of, ritual, 1937
Insurance, 165 (7)
Lot, 167-70, 174, 180 (8), 722
Maintenance, 145 (7), 165, 278 (5-6), 712, 716 (2)
Memorial, dedication of, ritual, 1940
Methodist Publishing House, 1156-57
Mortgage, 157 (2), 171-73, 1235 (6-7)
Opening for worship, ritual, 1934
Organ, dedication of, ritual, 1935
Parish house, dedication of, ritual, 1936
Parking facilities, 722
Parsonage, 145 (7), 180-81, 183, 278 (5), 723, 1235 (4, 6), 1236 (1, 5)
Purchase, 157 (2), 167-70, 174, 180, 723-24, 1220, 1235-37
Quarterly Conference authority, 157 (2)
Remodeling, 157 (2), 164 (5), 180, 723-24, 1235 (4), 1236 (1)

INDEX

Building, cont'd:
Rituals for dedication, etc., 1931-40
Sale, 157 (2), 171-73, 175
School, dedication of, ritual, 1938
Section of Church Extension, 1235-37
Site, 180 (8), 722, 1237 (5)
Use of, 165, 233 (6h)
See also Property

Bulgaria Conference, 1864 (2), 1875, 2103

Bulletin, weekly church, 160, 168, 170, 171 (1), 172 (1), 180 (3, 6), 196

Bureau, 783 (1d)

Bureau of Architecture, Interdenominational, 1569 (12)

Burial of the dead:
Duty of pastor, 352 (2)
Report of, 312, 352 (22b), 374
Ritual, 1918-19

Burma Conference, 1869 (1), 1881, 2008 (1), 2103

C

Cabinet:
Agency membership, 675, 679, 755 (2), 1231 (1), 1254 (3)
Appointment of preachers, 314, 432 (1-2, 5)
Called session of Annual Conference, 627
Definition, 2100
District boundaries, 431 (3)
Election by, 675, 1201, 1452
Emergency financial appeal, 810
Location of minister, 378
Missions and church extension, 1231 (1), 1254 (3), 1291, 1303 (2, 3), 1305
Nominations, 669 (1), 791, 1231 (1), 1444, 1532
Recommendation of preachers, 325 (3), 393 (5-6)

California-Nevada Conference, 1842, 2102

Call to Evangelism (resolution), 2029

Call to preach, 301-3, 322 (5), 352 (20), 362 (15g), 671

Camp Activities, Commission on, 763, 1102, 1595 (1), 2146

Campaign, financial. *See* Appeal, financial; Canvass, every-member; Fund-raising agent

Camping, 1401 (4), 1442

Campus-Church Relations Committee, 1365 (2-3)

Candidates:
For church membership, 107-11, 127-29
For deaconess, 146 (2), 1254 (4b)
For local preacher's license, 146 (1), 306-7, 690, 695 (2)
For ministry, 301-3, 304 (5), 321-45, 362 (9-10), 670-74, 689, 1238 (5), 1372 (4), 1374, 1380, 1924, 2041 (12)
For missionary service, 1189

Canvass, every-member, 257 (7), 267 (1), 292 (2)

Card index for church membership, 131

Cemetery, 362 (11)

Census of community, 222 (2)

Central Alabama Conference, 1767, 2102

Central America Conference, 1866 (2), 1878, 2103

Central and Southern Europe Central Conference, 1875, 2103, page 513

Central Christian Advocate, The, 278 (8), 288, 1144 (3-5), 2113. *See also* New Christian Advocate, The

Central Conference, 4 (3), 16-20, 541-82, 1874-82, 2006, 2011, 2103
Adaptation of General Conference legislation, 562-63, 566, 570-76
Agencies, administrative, 556
Adjourned sessions, 545
Appeals, judicial, 19 (6), 570, 935, 1042-43. *See also* Appeal

INDEX

Central Conference, cont'd:
 Areas, episcopal, 1874-82, 2103
 Assignment of bishops in, 20
 (5), 37, 441, 446 (3), 546,
 560 (1), 2005, 2103
 Authority over Annual Confer-
 ence, 666
 Authorization of, 16, 541-42
 Bishops, 8 (10), 20 (5), 34-37,
 422-24, 427, 431, 438, 446
 (3), 441-45, 544-47, 557-61,
 570, 930, 2005, 2101, 2103
 Board of Missions, relation to,
 548, 556, 581 (3-4), 2012
 Boundaries, 16, 27, 564, 1874-
 82, 2103
 Called session, 545
 Commission on the Structure of
 Methodism Overseas, 2012,
 2159
 Committee on Woman's Work,
 568-69
 Committees, 543, 544, 545, 548,
 580
 Council of co-operation, 548,
 580
 Courses of study, 573
 Deaconess work, 1252 (1b)
 Debts, 531 (4)
 Decisions, questions of law,
 43, 547, 905-7, 914
 Definition, 2100
 Delegates, 7, 17, 23-25, 542-43,
 607
 Discipline, 574-75
 Educational requirements for
 admission to ministry, 331
 Election of bishops, 8 (10),
 441-42, 445, 557-58
 Episcopal administration, 20,
 441-45, 544-47, 2005, 2103
 Episcopal Fund, 559 (1)
 Executive committee, 544-45,
 548, 580
 Expenses, 543
 General Conference authority
 over, 8 (4, 10), 16-19, 541
 Incorporation of executive com-
 mittee, 580
 Interdenominational relations,
 556, 578, 579
 Journal, 549, 567
 Judicial administration, 570,
 930
 Maps, pages 509, 513, 514, 517
 Marriage rules, 572
 Meetings, 18, 544, 545
 Number of bishops in, 557
 Officers, 556, 561
 Organization, 543-50

Central Conference, cont'd:
 Powers and duties, 19, 29, 318
 331, 548, 556-81, 623
 Presiding officers, 431 (2), 437
 (1), 546, 547, 549
 Property, 194, 580-81
 Provisional Annual Confer-
 ences in, 606-7
 Provisional Central Conference,
 541, 546, 550, 586-90
 Publications, 556
 Records, 549, 567
 Relation to Board of Missions,
 548, 556, 581 (3-4), 2012
 Reports to, 656
 Representation in, 542-43,
 Ritual, 571
 Rules, 547
 Secretary, 445, 549, 560
 Trials, 570, 930, 935
 Woman's Work, Committee on,
 568-69
See also Provisional Central
 Conference

Central Congo Conference,
 1860 (2), 1874, 2103

Central Council (affiliated au-
 tonomous church), 602 (3)

Central Germany Conference,
 1863 (2), 1877, 2103

Central Jurisdiction, 26, 1766-
 83, 2102
 Abolition of, 26 (note)
 Annual Conferences, 1766-83
 Areas, episcopal, 2102
 College of Bishops, 2105
 Episcopal supervision, Liberia,
 2005 (1)
 Map, page 495
 Officers of Jurisdictional Con-
 ference, 2109
 Transfers from, 26 (note), 28,
 532, 651 (18e), 1768 (note),
 1773 (note), 2009

Central Kansas Conference,
 1816, 2102

Central New York Conference,
 1716, 2102

**Central Pennsylvania Confer-
 ence, 1717, 2102**

Central promotional office, 750-
 54, 755 (1), 762 (3), 764
 (1). *See also* Commission on
 Promotion and Cultivation

INDEX

Central Texas Conference, 1817,
 2102

Central treasury, 732, 735, 737
 (1), 745-46, 759 (3), 1596
 (3), 1597 (4). *See also*
 Council on World Service
 and Finance: Treasurer

Central West Conference, 1768,
 2102

Certificate:

Baptism, 127
 Bishop's resignation, 435 (2)
 Election to General Conference,
 501
 Lay speaker, 142 (5)
 Local preacher's official stand-
 ing and dismissal, 308-9.
See also License
 Location, 374, 376
 Medical, 1617 (4, 6)
 Membership, 352 (26), 950,
 992. *See also* Certificate:
 Transfer
 Organization of new local
 church, 641
 Recognition from Board of
 Hospitals and Homes, 1563
 Recognition of ministerial
 orders, 414-15
 Supernumerary minister, 365
 Transfer, 110-11, 121-22, 128,
 155 (3), 352 (4), 602 (1).
See also Letter of notification
 Withdrawal from membership,
 124

Certification:

Director of Christian educa-
 tion, 1401 (2), 1451 (1)
 Minister of music, 1451 (1)

Certified public accountant,
 729, 737 (2), 739, 803, 1188

Chairman:

Board of Education, divisions
 of, 1327 (4), 1334, 2127,
 2130, 2134
 Board of Evangelism, 1161,
 1469, 2136
 Board of Publication, 1422,
 2112
 Commission (local church),
 143 (6), 209, 232, 256, 262,
 276, 352 (18), 362 (10)
 Commission on Chaplains,
 1572, 2145
 Commission on Missions (local
 church), 221 (1-2)

Chairman, cont'd:

Commission on Promotion and
 Cultivation, 751, 2148
 Commission on Town and
 Country Work (Annual Con-
 ference), 1295
 Commission on Worship, 1568
 (2), 2144
 Committee on Family Life,
 General, 1417 (2), 2133
 Conference agency, 793
 Conference Board of Evan-
 gelism, 755 (2)
 Conference Board of Hospitals
 and Homes, 1561 (3), 1565
 Conference Board of Lay Ac-
 tivities, 755 (2), 1503
 Conference Board of Minis-
 terial Training and Quali-
 fications, 675
 Conference Board of Missions,
 1291
 Conference Board of Temper-
 ance, 1532
 Conference Methodist Youth
 Fellowship, program area of
 Christian outreach, 1291
 Conference Television, Radio,
 and Film Commission, 755
 (2), 1583 (3)
 Department of Christian Social
 Relations, 1244 (3), 2118
 Department of Work in For-
 eign Fields, 1244 (3), 2118
 Department of Work in Home
 Fields, 1244 (3), 2118
 District Board of Lay Activi-
 ties, 1508
 District Board of Stewards, 797,
 802
 District Committee on Min-
 isterial Qualifications, 695
 (1)
 Interboard Committee on
 Town and Country Work,
 1230 (1)
 National Methodist Student
 Commission, 1405 (1)
 National Methodist Youth Fel-
 lowship Commission, 1405 (1)

Chaplain, 108, 393 (6), 403
 (6), 432 (4), 1571-72, 1618
 (2h). *See also* Commission
 on Chaplains

Chaplains Pension Fund, 1618
 (2h)

Character:

Approved supply pastor, 315

Character, cont'd:

- Arrest of, 432 (9)
- Bishop, 526
- Elder, 405
- Lay church member, 94-98, 107, 505, 590
- Lay speaker, 146 (3)
- Local preacher, 306-7, 964
- Located minister, 374
- Minister, 22, 377, 638, 646, 648, 651 (19)
- Preacher on trial, 321
- Retired minister, 370
- Steward, 208
- Student in school of theology, 1380 (1)
- Supernumerary minister, 365

Charge, pastoral. *See* Pastoral charge

Charge Board of Lay Activities, 289

Charges (against accused person). *See* Trial: Charges

Charitable institutions. *See* Institutions

Charlotte Area, 2102

Charter, corporate:

- Agencies, administrative, 1170, 1196, 1211, 1235 (10), 1241, 1328, 1465, 1467
- Local church, 176, 362 (7)
- Precedence over Discipline, 730
- Trustees of the Methodist Church, 704
- See also* Incorporation

Chartered Fund, 9 (5), 1607, 1625 (2a)

Children:

- Annuity claims, 760-70, 772, 774, 1618 (7), 1621, 1627 (4), 1630 (4), 1630 (12-13)
- Baptism, 127, 1910-11
- Burial ritual, 1919
- Christian education of, 129, 352 (5, 17), 1390-98, 1436, 2020 (III A), 2021, 2130. *See also* Children's Division
- Conference director of children's work, 1443, 1452
- District director of children's work, 687, 1448

Children, cont'd:

- Editors, 2113, 2134
- Homes for, 1551, 1554 (1)
- Missionary education, 1276 (2), 1287
- Pastor's duty to instruct, 129, 345 (14), 352 (22d-f)
- Preparatory members, 128-29, 132
- Reception into church membership, 129, 132, 1915
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1241, 1242, 1249 (3)

Children's Day, 250 (6), 296 (2b)

Children's Division, 235, 244-45, 352 (5, 22c). *See also* Children: Christian education of; Church school

Chile Conference, 1865 (2), 1878, 2103

China Central Conference, 1876, 2004 (2), 2103, page 517

Choristers, ritual for recognition, 1929

Christian:

- Advocate.* *See* Central Christian Advocate; New Christian Advocate
- Citizenship, program area, Methodist Youth Fellowship, 1532
- Education. *See* Board of Education; Children; Church school; Education; Youth Family. *See* Family
- Higher Education, Quadrennial Commission on, 2018 (1)
- Home (periodical), 2021 (2)
- Insignia and symbols, 188 (1)
- Methodist Episcopal Church, 46 (f), 250 (3), 1290
- Outreach, program area, Methodist Youth Fellowship, 1172 (6), 1291
- Service. *See* Woman's Division of Christian Service; Woman's Society of Christian Service
- Social Relations: Commission on (local church), 219, 276, 1550 (3)
- Conference Board of, 678

Christian, cont'd:

- Department of, 1248, 2118. *For details see* Department of Christian Social Relations
- Interboard Commission on, 1516-19, 2138
- Stewardship, 257 (7), 262-63, 352 (22g), 689 (7), 753 (4), 1492, 1512-14
- Vocation, 145 (9), 149 (1), 352 (20), 362 (15g), 676, 1364, 1415 (1), 2020 (III B9). *See also* Committee on Christian Vocations; Conference Commission on Christian Vocations; Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations
- Witness, chairman of, Methodist Youth Fellowship, 221 (1)

Church:

- Affiliated autonomous. *See* Affiliated autonomous churches
- And Community Co-operation in Town and Country (resolution), 2030
- Building. *See* Building Committee on World Peace, 276, 278 (7), 1543
- Conference. *See* Church Conference below
- Education about, 241, 1396. *See also* Methodist Church, The
- Emphasis on local, quadrennial, 2017
- Extension, 352 (22i), 362 (15c), 689, 761, 1213, 1219, 1428, 1441. *See also* Section of Church Extension
- Lay leader, 288. *For details see* Lay leader
- Local. *See* Local church
- Location and Building, District Board of, 155 (1), 180 (2, 5, 7), 188-89, 651 (4c), 721-24
- Loyalty oaths, 2025
- Membership. *See* Membership, church
- Methodist. *See* Methodist Church, The; *also* Methodist Church of: Brazil, Korea, Mexico
- Nature of the, 73, 101-2, 671
- Of Christ in Japan, 601, 605, 1885
- Of Christ in Okinawa, 1885

Church, cont'd:

- Property, Committee on, 278 (6). *See also* Property
- Quarterly Conference, 152-54, 158
- Register, permanent, 131
- Rolls, Committee on, 278 (1). *See also* Rolls
- School. *See* Church school below
- Union, 579, 2011. *See also* Commission on Church Union

Church Conference, 32-33, 196-200

- Age of members, 155 (5), 160, 182 (2), 196-97
- Annual, 32, 197-200
- Building plans, 180 (6)
- Comity agreement, 189
- Definition, 2100
- Elections, 32, 143-45, 198
- Federated church, 189
- General Conference authority over, 8 (3)
- Merger of local churches, 186 (2)
- Organizing new local church, 155 (5-7)
- Program of local church, planning, 196, 198
- Rules, 196-200
- Sale or mortgage of property, 171 (2), 172 (2)
- Transfer to another jurisdiction, 26 (note), 532

Church school, 241-51, 1396-97

- Adult Division, 235, 243-44, 246 (2), 352 (5, 7, 22c)
- Audio-visual materials, 233 (3)
- Authorization of, 241-42
- Budget, 233 (6g), 245 (4)
- Building, 233 (6h), 245 (3), 1236 (1), 1401 (1), 1936
- Children's Day, 250 (6), 296 (2b)
- Children's Division, 235, 244-45, 352 (5, 22c). *See also* Children: Christian education of
- Classes, 244 (3), 246 (2), 352 (5, 7)
- Commission on Education, 143 (6-9), 144, 219, 231-51. *For details see* Commission on Education
- Committee on Family Life, 234

Church school, cont'd:

- Committee on Fellowship and Recreational Life, 235
- Community service, 248 (4)
- Curriculum, 233 (3), 243 (5), 1396, 1421-26. *See also* Church school: Literature
- Departments, 244, 249
- Director of Christian education, 143 (9), 209, 232, 246 (1, 3), 247, 248-49, 1396, 1401 (2), 1443, 1451, 1926
- Director of family life program, 234
- Director of recreation, 235
- District Conference, 689
- District superintendent's responsibility, 362 (15e)
- Division councils, 244 (7-8)
- Division of the Local Church, 242 (2), 1396-1410. *For details see* Division of the Local Church
- Division superintendents, 232, 246 (3)
- Educational assistant, 143 (9), 246 (1)
- Equipment, 233 (6h), 1401 (1)
- Evangelism in, 222 (2), 1396-97
- Extended sessions, 243
- Extension, 242, 1407, 1428, 1441
- Finance, 233 (6g), 250
- Home members, 243
- Interdenominational relations, 243 (4)
- Kindergarten, 243, 245
- Leadership education, 243, 1396-98
- Literature, 233 (3), 278 (8), 352 (18), 362 (15e), 1287, 1428-29, 1436, 1441, 2027. *See also* Church school: Publications
- Manuals, 244 (2), 248 (1), 251
- Membership, 233 (4), 243, 1396
- Membership, church, training for, 107, 129, 222 (13), 241, 1396, 1418
- Membership cultivation superintendent, 143 (8), 232, 246 (1)
- Methodist programs, 248 (5)
- Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 296 (1d)
- Methodist Sunday Evening Fellowship, 243

Church school, cont'd:

- Methodist Youth Fellowship. *See* Methodist Youth Fellowship
- Methodist Youth Fund, 1413 (2)
- Minister of music, 232
- Missionary education, 257 (2, 5), 352 (22f), 1287, 1396-97
- Missionary offerings, 1439, 1450. *See also* Methodist Youth Fund; World Service Sunday
- National Family Week, 250 (5), 296 (2a)
- New, organizing, 242. *See also* Church school: Extension
- Nursery school, 243, 245
- Officers and teachers, 231, 233 (3, 6), 246, 248-49, 257 (5), 1398 (2), 1928
- Organization, 243-48
- Parent study groups, 243, 2021 (5)
- Pastor's authority and responsibility, 248 (2), 352 (5-7, 17-20, 22c-f, i)
- Policies, 233 (1)
- Publications, 1132, 1143, 1145-53, 1421-27, 1428-29, 1441, 2134-35. *See also* Church school: Literature
- Race Relations Sunday, 250 (3), 296 (1b)
- Rally Day, 250 (2), 296 (1f)
- Recognition of officers and teachers, ritual, 1928
- Records, 233 (4), 362 (15g)
- Removal of unsatisfactory officers and teachers, 233 (6b)
- Reports, 352 (22c), 689
- Roll, 352 (22f)
- Rooms, 233 (6h), 1401 (1)
- Secretary, 232
- Special days, 233 (6d), 250, 296. *See also* Special days
- Sunday school, 243, 244 (3), 1396
- Superintendents, 143 (7-8), 145 (9), 209, 221 (1), 232-33, 246-49, 256, 362 (10, 15e), 687, 1449
- Supervision, 233, 242, 246-48, 251
- Vacation and weekday schools, 243
- Workers' Conference, 231, 249
- World Service Sunday, 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5), 296 (1a)
- Year, 246 (3)

Church school, cont'd:

- Young Adult Fellowship, 209
- 234, 244 (1), 1397
- Youth Council, 138 (3), 153 (3), 209
- Youth Division, 145 (9), 235, 244-46, 352 (5, 7), 1403. *See also* Methodist Youth Fellowship
- Circuit, 433**
- Appointments, 145 (8), 147-48
- Annual Church Conference, 197-99
- Charge Board of Lay Activities, 289
- Church Quarterly Conferences, 152-54, 158
- Commission on Membership and Evangelism, 221 (5)
- Definition, 104, 2100
- Division of, 184
- Elections, 143-45
- Membership roll, 352 (25)
- Organizing a new church, 155 (7)
- Parish organization, 362 (15i), 2030
- Parsonage, 145 (7), 183-84
- Trustees, 183-84
- Citizenship, program area, Methodist Youth Fellowship, 1532**
- City or district missionary societies, 155 (1), 173 (2), 432 (4), 1218-27, 1295**
- City work. See** Department of City Work
- Claim:**
- Annuity. *See* Annuity: Claim
- Pastor's salary, 825
- Supernumerary minister's, 365
- Class leader, 93, 352 (10)**
- Classes:**
- Church school, 244 (3), 246 (2)
- Training in church membership, 129, 222 (13), 352 (22e)
- Classification of educational institutions, 1378 (3), 1383-84, 1390, 1391 (2)**
- Clearinghouse (pensions), 431 (7), 1620 (7), 1631 (7), 1634 (2, 3), 1636**

Code of ethics (hospitals and homes), 1566**College:**

- Building, ritual for dedication of, 1938
- Campus-Church Relations Committee, 1365 (2-3)
- Classification, 1383-84, 1390, 1391 (2)
- Department of College and University Religious Life, 1351 (3), 1363, 1404-6, 2127
- Educational requirements for ministry, 307 (1), 318 (1), 323-25, 669-70, 673
- Executive Committee on Religious Life, 1365 (2)
- Financial support, 689 (5), 810, 1385-86, 1391 (2), 1450
- Loan Fund, Student, 250 (4), 1353
- Methodist Student Movement, 1369-70. *For details see* Methodist Student Movement
- Missionary education, 1287
- Promotion of enrollment, 149 (1), 233 (6f), 352 (17), 362 (15e), 689 (5)
- Quadrennial emphasis on higher education, 2018
- Racial policies, 2026 (1)
- Scholarship Fund, National Methodist, 250 (4), 1358
- Student religious work, 1363-70, 1404-6, 1420, 1442, 1448
- Trustees, 711 (2), 728
- Wesley Foundation, 1364-68. *For details see* Wesley Foundation
- See also* Educational institutions; School of theology

College of Bishops:

- Called session, Jurisdictional or Central Conference, 523, 544-45
- Definition, 2100
- Disability of bishop, 775
- Elections by, 1431, 1523, 1546, 1550 (1), 1581 (2)
- Nominations by, 750 (2), 1045, 1172 (2), 1311, 1524, 1548
- Officers, jurisdictional, 2105
- President, 775, 923-24
- Southern Asia Central Conference, 2005 (4)
- Vacancies, filled by, 750 (3), 1105, 1111, 1311, 1553

Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. *See* Christian: Methodist Episcopal Church

Comity agreement, 189 (2), 578

Commission:

Annual Conference, 651 (4, 14), 666, 679, 1120 (8), 1658 (1b). *See also* Agencies, administrative: Annual conference. *For individual commissions see* Conference Commission on Christian Vocations, etc.

Chairman, local church, 143 (6), 144, 209, 221 (2), 232, 256, 262, 276, 352 (10), 362 (10)

General, 783 (2a), 1104, 1120 (8), 1658 (1b). *See also* Agencies, administrative. *For individual commissions see below* Commission on Camp Activities, etc.

Local church, 142-44, 155 (7), 209, 219-76. *For individual commissions see below* Commission on Christian Social Relations (local church), etc. Optional, 219, 274, 276. Quadrennial, 2011-14, 2017-18

Commission on Camp Activities, 763, 1102, 1595 (1), 2146

Commission on Chaplains, 393 (6), 403 (6), 763, 1102, 1404 (2), 1415 (2), 1571-72, 1595 (1), 1618 (2h), 2145

Commission on Christian Higher Education, Quadrennial, 2014, 2018 (1), 2161

Commission on Christian Social Relations (local church), 219, 276, 1550 (3)

Commission on Christian Social Relations, Interboard, 1516-19, 2138

Commission on Christian Vocations, Conference, 651 (4g), 651 (14d), 670, 675-77

Commission on Church Union, 2011, 2153

Commission on Co-operation and Counsel, Joint (Board of Missions and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), 1290

Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and Publication, Interagency, 1576-79, 2147

Commission on Deaconess Work, 1247 (5), 1252-54, 2119

Annual Conference board. *See* Conference Deaconess Board

Date of meeting, 1252 (5)

Duties, 1252 (4)

Elections, 1252 (1c), 1252 (5)

Executive committee, 1252 (6)

Executive secretary, 1252 (1c), 1252 (3), 2119

Funds, 1252 (2)

Jurisdiction association. *See* Jurisdiction Deaconess Association

Membership, 1252 (3)

Nominations, 1252 (1c)

Officers, 1252 (5)

Reports to, 1254 (7)

See also Deaconess

Commission on Education (local church), 144, 219, 231-51

Chairman, 143 (6), 144, 209, 232

Committee on Family Life, 234

Committee on Fellowship and Recreational Life, 235

Conference Board of Education, guidance from, 231, 1442

Director of family life program, 234

Director of recreation, 235

Duties, 233

Membership, 232

Methodist Men, co-operation with, 292 (3)

Missions, school of, 257 (2)

Officers, 232

Organizing new church schools, 222 (14), 242

See also Church school

Commission on Entertainment of the General Conference, 2108

Commission on the Jurisdictional System, 2013, 2160

Commission on the Local Church, Interboard, 1160-63, 2114

Commission on Membership and Evangelism (local church), 125, 143 (6), 144, 209, 219-22, 234, 256, 292 (1)

Commission on Minimum Salaries, Conference, 651 (4s), 826

Commission on Missions (local church), 143 (6), 144, 209, 219, 221 (1), 222 (14), 244 (8), 256-57, 262, 292 (4), 352 (16), 1308

Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, 750-55, 2148

Advance specials, 750 (1), 752, 758 (1), 762 (4-5). *See also* Advance

Agencies, promotion, 753 (1-3), 1120 (9)

Annual Conference commission, 651 (4t), 755, 764 (1)

Audio-visual materials, 754

Budget, 754

Central promotional office, 750 (1), 752-54

Chairman, 751, 2148

Distribution of literature, 753 (2), 1120 (9)

Duties, 750 (1), 752-53, 760 (3), 1120 (9), 2018 (1b)

Expenses, 754

Fellowship of Suffering and Service, 750 (1-2), 763

Fourth-Sunday world service leaflets 754

General secretary, 751-52, 758 (1), 1579, 1595 (1), 2148

Higher education emphasis, 2018 (1b)

Local-church program journal, 753 (3), 754

Membership, 750 (2-3), 2148

Officers, 751, 2148

Publications, promotional, 753 (1-3)

Representatives on other agencies, 758 (1), 1576-77, 1595 (1)

Stewardship education, 753 (4)

Television Ministry Fund, 750 (1), 764

Treasurer, 751, 2148

Vacancies, 750 (3)

Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, cont'd:

Vice-chairman, 751, 2148

Week of Dedication, 750 (1-2), 752, 760 (3). *See also* Week of Dedication

World service, promotion, 750 (1-2), 752, 753 (4), 754-55. *See also* World Service

Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 1586-90, 2151

Area commission, 1590

Chairman, 1586, 2151

Conference commission, 1590

Co-operation with editors, 1589 (3)

District committee, 1590

Duties, 1586, 1589

Expense, 765, 1588

General secretary, 1579, 1587, 2151

Local-church committee, 1590

Membership, 1586, 2151

Representatives on other agencies, 1576-77, 1581 (2), 1595 (1)

Vacancies, 1586

Commission on Standards for Wesley Foundations, 1367

Commission on Stewardship and Finance (local church), 143 (6, 10), 144, 209, 219, 221 (3), 245 (4), 256, 257 (6-7), 261-72, 292 (2)

Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas, 2011 (2a), 2012, 2159

Commission on Town and Country Work, Conference, 651 (4h), 1231, 1295

Commission on World Service and Finance, Conference, 791-812. *For details see* Conference Commission on World Service and Finance

Commission on Worship, Church, 219, 274, 1569 (11)

Commission on Worship, General, 765, 1568-70, 2144

Co-operation with other agencies, 1569 (6, 9)

Duties, 1569-70

Commission on Worship, General, cont'd.
Expenses, 1568 (4)
Interdenominational relations, 1569 (12)
Meetings, 1568 (3)
Membership, 1568 (1)
Officers, 1568 (2)

Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System, 2013, 2160

Commissioning missionaries and deaconesses, ritual, 1927

Commitment Day, 149 (2), 278 (3), 1528

Committee:
Annual Conference, 666-68, 680. *See also* Agencies, administrative: Annual Conference
Arbitration of boundary changes, 184, 534, 716 (3)
Circuit, 145 (7-8)
District, 695-96, 1481-83
Executive. *See* Executive committee
General. *See* Agencies, administrative. *For individual committees see below* Committee, Advance, etc.; *also under* Interboard Committee and Joint Committee
General Conference called session, 509
Local church, 142 (2-3), 145, 155 (7), 180, 278. *For individual committee see below* Committee on Christian Vocations (local church), etc.

Committee, Advance, 753-62.
For details see Advance

Committee, Building, (local church), 165, 180

Committee, Campus-Church Relations, 1365 (2-3)

Committee, Curriculum, 233 (3), 248 (5), 1143, 1146-47, 1287, 1396, 1425-26, 2135

Committee, Distributing (Annual Conference), 1609 (1)

Committee, Parsonage, 145 (7), 278 (5)

Committee for Overseas Relief, Methodist, 1311-15.
For details see Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief

Committee of Investigation, Conference, 651 (4d, 20), 923, 931-34, 936, 939, 957-58, 972

Committee on Appeals, 15 (6), 19 (6), 913, 935, 937. *See also* Court: Appellate

Committee on Apportionments (circuit), 145 (8)

Committee on Architecture, Joint, 1414

Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, Joint, 1283-85, 2121

Committee on Christian Vocations (local church), 145 (9), 676

Committee on Christian Vocations, Interboard, 1415, 2132. *For details see* Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations

Committee on Church Property (local church), 278 (6)

Committee on Church Rolls (local church), 278 (1)

Committee on Conference Relations, 365, 367, 377-78, 637, 646-47, 651 (4b), 668, 1617 (1, 4, 5)

Committee on Co-operation (local church), 145 (5)

Committee on Co-operation and Counsel, 1247 (4), 1360

Committee on co-operation between Woman's Division of Christian Service and Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1247 (3), 1567

Committee on Educational Institutions, Jurisdictional, 1435 (1)

Committee on Episcopacy, Jurisdictional, 526, 926

Committee on Family Life, Church, 234

Committee on Family Life, Conference, 1452

Committee on Family Life, General, 1417, 2133

Committee on Farm and Home (local church), 145 (11)

Committee on Fellowship and Recreational Life (local church), 145 (10), 235

Committee on Finance and Estimates, 1249 (1), 1250

Committee on Good Literature (local church), 278 (8)

Committee on Hospitals and Homes (local church), 278 (9)

Committee on the Local Church, Divisional, 1409 (2)

Committee on the Local Church, Jurisdictional, 1435 (2)

Committee on Local-Church Goals, Quadrennial Conference, 2017 (1)

Committee on Materials for Training for Church Membership, Joint, 1418

Committee on Men's Work (local church), 278 (10)

Committee on the Ministry, National Council of Churches, 1372 (4)

Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, Interboard, 1289, 2124

Committee on Missionary Education, Interboard, 1286-88, 2122. *For details see* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education

Committee on Missionary Personnel (Woman's Division of Christian Service), 1249 (1). *See also* Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel

Committee on Nominations (local church), 143-45, 155 (6), 160-61, 183, 208, 212, 232, 278 (2), 352 (16)

Committee on Pastoral Relations (local church), 145 (2)

Committee on Pension Legislation, 1665

Committee on Permanent Funds and Investments, 1249 (1)

Committee on Policy (local church), 145 (6)

Committee on Proportional Payment of Ministerial Support, Conference, 1611 (8)

Committee on Public Relations and Methodist Information (district or local church), 1590

Committee on Records and History (local church), 145 (4), 689

Committee on Research and Survey, 1304

Committee on Reserve Pensions, Conference, 651 (4u), 1656 (4a, 6)

Committee on Social and Economic Relations (local church), 276, 278 (11), 1550 (3)

Committee on Temperance (local church), 276, 278 (3), 1529

- Committee on Temperance Education, Joint,** 1416
- Committee on Urban Work,** 1305
- Committee on Town and Country Work, Interboard,** 1230, 2123. *For details see Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work*
- Committee on Wills and Legacies** (local church), 145 (12), 737 (11)
- Committee on Wills, Bequests, and Gifts** (general), 737 (11)
- Committee on Woman's Work** (Central Conference), 568-69
- Committee on the World Federation of Methodist Women,** 1249 (1)
- Committee on World Peace:**
Church, 276, 278 (7), 1543
Conference, 678, 1542
Jurisdictional, 1541
- Communion, Holy:**
Ritual, 1908-9
Steward, 143 (11)
World-wide Communion Sunday, 296 (1e), 763
See also Lord's Supper; Sacrament
- Community:**
Church, 189, 432 (4), 1643 (2c)
Co-operation, 248 (4), 276
Service, 248 (4), 278 (9), 232 (2), 1229 (1)
- Complaints.** *See* Judicial administration
- Comptroller, Council on World Service and Finance,** 737 (6)
- Conference:**
Advance specials, 761
Agencies, 651 (4, 14), 666-80, 793, 804, 807-8, 812. *For individual agencies see below*
Conference Board of Christian Social Relations, etc.

- Conference, cont'd:**
Annual, 21-25, 621-80, 2100. *For details see* Annual Conference
Annual Church, 32, 197-200. *See also* Church Conference
Benevolences, 732, 761, 793-95. *For details see* Benevolences: Conference
Boards. *See* Board: Annual Conference; also Conference Board of Christian Social Relations, etc., below
Boundaries. *See under name of conference*
Central, 16-20, 541-82, 2100. *For details see* Central Conference
Christian Education, Methodist, 1400, 1438, 1455
Church, 33, 196-200. *For details see* Church Conference
Church Quarterly, 152-54, 158
Claimants, 821-23, 1601-57. *For details see* Pension regulations
Commissions. *See* Commission: Annual Conference; also Conference Commission on Christian Vocations, etc., below
Committees. *See* Committee: Annual Conference; also Conference Committee of Investigation, etc., below
Council, 679
Director of adult work, 1448, 1452
Director of children's work, 1448, 1452
Director of youth work, 675, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1448, 1452
District, 30, 686-96, 2100. *For details see* District Conference
Evangelist, 353, 363, 432 (6), 1474 (2), 1480
Family Life, 1417 (1)
General, 5-10, 501-12, 2100. *For details see* General Conference
Jurisdictional, 11-15, 26, 516-35, 2100. *For details see* Jurisdictional Conference
Lay leader, 1503-7. *For details see* Lay leader
Membership, ministerial. *See* Admission of preachers; Minister; Ministry
Methodist Bishops, 427

- Conference, cont'd:**
Methodist Youth, National, 1404-5. *For details see* National Conference of Methodist Youth
Missionary secretary, 755 (2), 1300, 1302 (1), 1583 (2)
Quarterly, 31-32, 137-55, 2100. *For details see* Quarterly Conference
Provisional Annual, 606-12. *For details see* Provisional Annual Conference
Provisional Central, 586-93. *For details see* Provisional Central Conference
Relations of ministers, 22, 364-82, 635-39, 646-48, 668. *See also* Admission of Preachers; Committee on Conference Relations
Secretary. *See* Conference secretary, below
Secretary of evangelism, 1479, 1583 (2)
Secretary of town and country work, 1231 (4)
Town and Country Work, National, 1229 (7), 1230 (3b)
Treasurer. *See* Conference Treasurer, below
Undergraduates. *See* Preacher on trial
Workers' (local church), 231, 249
Year, 143-44, 160, 162 (1), 183, 208, 221 (2), 232, 246 (1), 256, 314, 651 (51)
- Conference Board of Christian Social Relations,** 678
- Conference Board of Education, 248 (1), 362 (15e), 651 (4k), 1435 (2), 1441-55**
Age, youth members, 1443
Apportionment, 1450
Assemblies, 1408, 1442
Audio-visual equipment, 1442
Bible conferences, 1442
Budget, 1447
Camps, 1442
Children's Day, 250 (6), 296 (2b)
Church-school extension, 432 (4), 1441
Church-school literature, 1441
Church School Rally Day, 250 (2), 296 (1f)
Colleges, 149 (1), 1442, 1448,

- Conference Board of Education, cont'd:**
1450. *See also* Educational institutions
Conference Committee on Family Life, 1452
Conference director of adult work, 1448, 1452
Conference director of children's work, 1448, 1452
Conference director of youth work, 1448, 1452
Convener, 1445
Co-operation with other agencies, 1455
Educational institutions, 149 (1), 1354 (4), 1386-87, 1442, 1448, 1450
Educational societies, 1359
Elections, 1444, 1448, 1452
Executive committee, 1447
Executive secretary, 362 (15e), 432 (4), 675, 755 (2), 1231 (1), 1370, 1436, 1444, 1446, 1448-49, 1452, 1583 (2)
Extension secretary, 432 (4)
Finance committee, 1447
Incorporation, 1442
Interconference director of student work, 1370
Leadership training schools, 1408, 1442
Membership, 1443
Methodist Conference on Christian Education, 1400, 1455
Nominations, 1367 (2), 1430, 1443
Organization, 1445
President, 755 (2), 1444, 1446-47, 1450
Property, 1442
Quorum, 1443
Rally Day, Church School, 250 (2), 296 (1f)
Recording secretary, 1444
Reports by, 1449, 1451 (2)
Reports to, 149, 362 (15e), 1448, 1451 (1), 1452
Representatives on other agencies, 669 (1), 755 (2), 1231 (1), 1583 (2)
Staff, 1448-49
Student religious work, 1367 (2), 1370, 1448
Support, 1450
Treasurer, 1444, 1446, 1449
Vacancies, 1443-44
Vice-president, 1444
Wesley Foundations, 1367 (2), 1448

Conference Board of Evangelism, 651 (4a), 1478-80, 1583 (2)

Conference Board of Hospitals and Homes, 278 (9), 651 (4m, 16), 1561, 1567 (2)

Conference Board of Lay Activities, 286, 651 (4m), 1503-7. *See also* Lay leader: Conference.

Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, 651 (4a), 669-74

Admission of preachers:

From other churches, 411-12, 671

Into full connection, 341, 344, 671

On trial, 322, 325 (3), 326, 330, 671

For details see Admission of preachers

Approved supply pastors, 314-17. *For details see* Approved supply pastors

Chairman, 669 (2), 675

Commission on Christian Vocations, 670, 675

Courses of study, 317-18, 325 (2-3), 330, 343, 393, 403, 411 (2), 673, 674 (2), 1374 (2). *See also* Courses of study

Department of Ministerial Education, 669 (4), 670, 672, 1372 (4), 1374 (2), 1375. *See also* Department of Ministerial Education

District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, 315 (1), 322 (2), 393 (4), 403 (4), 411 (1-2), 695 (3, 6-7). *See also* District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications

Examination of candidates, 315-17, 322, 325 (3), 326, 330, 341, 344, 393, 403, 411-12, 671

Meetings, 669 (3)

Membership, 669 (1)

Ministerial recruitment, 670, 1375, 1380

Ordination, 393, 403, 671

Pastors' schools, 674 (2), 1374 (2)

Records, 672, 674, 1372 (4)

Registrar, 669 (2), 672, 674, 675

Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, *cont'd*:

Selective Service, 1372 (4)

Schools of theology, 316, 323-36, 342, 670, 673, 674 (2), 1380

Students, 316-17, 330, 670, 671, 673, 674, 1380

Conference Board of Missions, 256, 651 (4), 145, 1295-1307

Budget, 1307

Chairman, 1291

Conference missionary secretary, 755 (2), 1300, 1302 (1), 1583 (2)

Elections, 1295, 1296 (1)

Executive committee, 1297

Loan to, 173 (2)

Meetings, 1296 (1)

Missions anniversary, 1301

Nominations, 1295, 1298

Provisional Annual Conference, 612

Reports to, 1296 (1)

Conference Board of Pensions, 651 (4p, 14a), 661, 798, 1610-12, 1617-35, 1645 (9). *For details see* Pension regulations

Conference Board of Social and Economic Relations, 678, 1550 (2)

Conference Board of Temperance, 651 (4i), 678, 1532-34

Conference Commission on Christian Vocations, 651 (4g, 14d), 670, 675-77, 1254 (3)

Conference Commission on Minimum Salaries, 651 (4s), 826

Conference Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, 651 (4t), 755, 764 (1)

Conference Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 1583 (2), 1590

Conference Commission on Town and Country Work, 1229 (2), 1231

Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, 791-812

Agencies, support of, 793-97, 1303 (2), 1450, 1506, 1533, 1583 (4)

Appeals for funds, 810-11

Apportionments, 738, 793-802, 826-28

Composition and organization, 651 (4g), 791-92

Conference claimants, 798, 1623 (4)

Executive committee, 792

Local-church financial systems, 809

President, 755 (2), 792

Promotion of benevolences, 755 (2-3)

Recording secretary, 792

Reports by, 651 (14c), 786, 793-96, 798-99, 801, 811

Reports to, 739, 793, 807, 1303 (2), 1450, 1506, 1533

Treasurer, 792, 803-8. *For details see* Conference treasurer

Vacancies filled by, 791, 803

Vice-president, 792

Conference Commission on Worship, 1568

Conference Committee of Investigation, 651 (4d, 20), 923, 931-34, 936, 939, 957-58, 972

Conference Committee on Family Life, 1452

Conference Committee on Local-Church Goals, Quadrennial, 2017 (1)

Conference Committee on Proportional Payment of Ministerial Support, 1611 (8)

Conference Committee on Reserve Pensions, 651 (4u), 1656 (4a, 6)

Conference Committee on World Peace, 278 (7), 678, 1542

Conference Deaconess Board, 146 (2), 643, 651 (4), 675, 966-68, 1252 (4c, 7, 8, 10), 1254

Conference Distributing Committee, 1609 (1)

Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship:

Chairman of Christian outreach, 1291

Nominations by, 1172 (5), 1326, 1430, 1448, 1468, 1532, 1546

President, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1443, 1452, 2017 (1)

Representatives on other conference agencies, 675, 1295, 1443, 1452

Conference Relations, Committee on, 365, 367, 377-78, 637, 646-47, 651 (4b), 668, 1617 (1, 4, 5)

Conference secretary, 656-62

Archives, 656, 663

Credentials filed with, 311, 994

Certification by, 26 (note), 501, 532

Election, 629, 651 (1)

Journal, 362 (4, 10), 656-59, 1629 (2-3)

Ministers' service records, 661, 1629, 1631 (6)

Minutes, 656

Missionaries, list of, 659

Records, 651 (5), 656-63, 935, 937, 1022-24, 1035, 1629, 1631 (6)

Roll, conference, 645, 1629 (3)

Reports to, 362 (4, 10-11), 431 (7), 827 (1)

Conference Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 753 (2), 764 (2), 1553

Conference treasurer, 803-8

Accounts, 651 (5), 663, 803, 807-8

Auditing, 729, 803, 807

Bond, surety, 729, 792, 807

Borrowing funds, 801

Depository, 807-8

Disbursements, 759 (3), 760 (5), 763, 764 (6), 801, 804-5, 808, 1413 (2), 1624 (2), 1645 (2), 1645 (6)

Election, 651 (1), 792, 803

Remittance to, 147, 250, 268, 352 (28), 759 (3), 760 (5), 763, 764 (6), 804-5, 808, 1413 (2), 1624 (2), 1645 (6)

Reports by, 651 (7), 729, 786, 806

Conference treasurer, cont'd:
Reports to, 733, 746 (3)
Supervision, 803

Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, 651 (4r), 1256, 1257-58, 1276 (2)
Amendments to constitution, 1256 (7)
Constitution, 1256
Co-operation with Conference Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1567 (2)
Elections, 1256 (5-6)
Meeting, 1256 (5)
Membership, 1256 (3)
Nominations, 1172 (2), 1256 (6)
President, 755 (2), 1231 (1), 1253 (2c), 1256 (3, 4), 1291, 1295, 1583 (2), 2017 (1)
Purpose and duties, 1254 (4e), 1256 (2)
Recording secretary, 1256 (3)
Representatives on other agencies, 1231 (1), 1254 (3), 1255 (3)
Secretary, 1256 (3)
Christian social relations, 1256 (3), 1452, 1532
Missionary education, 1256 (3), 1300
Missionary personnel, 675, 1256 (3)
Promotion, 1256 (3), 1300
Treasurer, 1256 (3), 1413 (2)
Vice-president, 1256 (3)

Connectional:
Definition, 2100
Expense. *See* General Administration Fund
General Conference powers, 8

Conscientious objectors, 2020
(III F 3), 2024 (8)

Consecration:
Bishop, 35, 423, 431 (9), 435 (2), 442, 445, 1922
Building. *See* Dedication
Deaconess, 431 (9), 1254 (4d), 1925
Director of Christian education, 1451 (3), 1926

Consolidation of local churches, 188-87, 189, 651 (186)

Constituency:
Roll, 123, 132, 352 (25)
Visitation of, 215 (5), 221 (2, 7, 11-12), 352 (22f)

Constitution of The Methodist Church, 1-44

Constitutionality of legislation and decisions, 43-44, 903-5, 2001-2

Consulting members, Curriculum Committee, 1426 (2).
See also Advisory members

Contingent Fund:
Division of World Missions, 1200
Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, 1651 (2), 1653 (1, 4-6)
Partial Reserve Pension Fund, 1656 (10, 12)

Contributory Annuity Fund, Joint, 1618 (2h)

Convener, Boards of Education, 1327, 1431, 1445

Convocation on Urban Work, 1223

Co-operation:
And Counsel, Committee on, 1247 (4), 1360
And Counsel, Joint Commission on (with Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), 1290
Committee on (local church), 145 (5)
Council of (affiliated autonomous church), 602 (3)
Interagency. *See* Agencies: Co-ordination
Interdenominational. *See* Interdenominational relations

Co-ordinating Council, 1111-15, 2110
Acquisition of property by agencies, 1107, 1115 (7)
Authorization, 1111
Financial support, 765, 1115 (6)
Long range objectives, 1115 (3)
Membership, 1111, 2110
Officers, 1112, 2110
Powers and duties, 737 (5), 753 (1), 1107, 1112, 1115, 1162, 1518, 1578, 2016 (3)
Quadrennial program, 1115 (3), 2016 (3). *See also* Quadrennial program
Records, 1112, 1115 (1)

Co-ordinating Council, cont'd:
Special days, 737 (5), 1115 (4).
See also Special days

Cornerstone, ritual for laying, 1932

Correspondence courses:
Leadership training, 1398 (2)
Ministerial, 673, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1374 (3-4), 2041 (1, 5).
See also Courses of study

Costa Rica, 1866 (2)

Council:
Bishops. *See below* Council of Bishops
Central (affiliated autonomous church), 602 (3)
Churches. *See* National Council of Churches; World Council of Churches
Conference, 679
Co-operation (affiliated autonomous church), 602 (3)
Co-ordinating, 1111-15, 2110.
For details see Co-ordinating Council
Interboard (Conference), 679
Judicial, 42-44, 901-18, 2001-2, 2106. *For details see* Judicial Council
Secretarial:
Board of Education, 1336 (3)
Board of Missions, 1280
Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and Publication, 1579
Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations, 1519
Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1163
Secretaries, 1115 (3), 1595, 2016 (3)
World Methodist, 46 (f), 1591 (1b, 2a), 2154
World Service and Finance. *See below* Council on World Service and Finance
Workers'. *See* Worker's Conference
Youth (local church), 138 (3), 153 (3), 209

Council of Bishops, 20 (5), 36, 38, 421-27, 2100, 2104
Affiliated autonomous church, 603

Council of Bishops, cont'd:
Amendments to constitution, 10 (2)
Assignment of bishops, 20 (5), 38, 435 (3), 436 (4), 437 (1), 439-41, 446, 546, 604, 2005 (4-5), 2102-3
Attendance on meetings, 444
Called session of General Conference, 509
Chaplains, 1571-72
City work, 1223
Elections by, 750 (2), 1106, 1111 (1), 1129, 1172 (1), 1252 (3), 1289, 1326-27, 1383, 1415 (2), 1417 (2), 1468-69, 1491, 1536, 1563, 1581 (2), 1591 (2a), 1602 (1), 2018 (1a)
Fiscal authority, 748, 753 (5), 762 (6), 763, 1315
Forms, statistical, 1120 (6)
Judicial Council, appeals to, 904, 906, 914
Jurisdictional system, study of, 2013 (1-2)
Membership, 20 (2), 444
Nominations by, 703, 750 (2), 758 (1), 901, 1116, 1172 (3), 1326, 1563 (1), 1572, 1586, 1596-97, 1599, 2011 (1), 2012 (2)
Officers, 2104
President, 776
Quadrennial program, 2016 (3), 2017 (4), 2018 (1a)
Reports to, 1115 (1, 3), 1595 (2)
Retired bishops, 435-38, 776, 2101
Special days, 737 (5), 1115 (4)
Town and country work, 1229 (7), 1230 (1)
Transfer of local churches, 26 (note), 28, 532
Vacancies filled by, 703, 750 (3), 758 (1), 1105-6, 1116, 1553, 1568 (1), 1572, 1596-97
See also Bishop; Episcopal administration

Council on World Service and Finance, 735-49, 765-86, 1116-20, 2111
Authorization, 735, 1120
Central treasury, 732, 735, 737 (1), 745-46, 759 (3), 1596 (3), 1597 (4). *See also*

Council on World Service and Finance, cont'd:
 Council on World Service and Finance: Treasurer
 Committee on Wills, Bequests, and Gifts, 737 (11)
 Composition and organization, 1102, 1116-19, 2111
 Comptroller, 737 (6)
 Employed personnel, 1117, 2111
 Executive committee, 739, 753 (5), 776, 1117, 1119, 2111
 File of Pastors and Church Officials, 657, 765, 1120 (8), 2111
 Expenses, 737 (1, 11), 1120, (5, 7-8)
 General secretary, 751, 752, 753 (1), 762 (2), 1117, 1120 (5, 7-9), 1595 (2), 2111. *See also* Council on World Service and Finance: Treasurer
 Local-church Committee on Wills and Legacies, 145 (12)
 Meetings, 1118
 Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, possible discharge, 1315
 Minutes, 1119
 Powers and duties, 559, 737-49, 753-54, 762 (6), 763, 765-86, 800, 809, 1115 (3, 4), 1120, 1496, 1539, 1549 (2), 1557, 1581 (5-6), 1588, 1596-99, 1612 (6), 2013 (5), 2016 (3), 2018 (1)
 President, 1117, 2111
 Recording secretary, 1117, 2111
 Reports by, 737 (1, 4, 13), 739, 742-43, 747, 749, 766, 770-71, 774 (2), 778, 782, 1112, 1115 (3-4)
 Reports to, 657, 737 (2, 6, 13), 739, 765, 775-76, 781-82, 806, 1112, 1115 (1, 4), 1337 (2), 1373, 1527 (3), 1568 (4), 1588, 1595 (2)
 Representatives on other agencies, 758 (1), 1595 (1)
 Shipping and Service Department, 1120 (9)
 Special days, 737 (5), 747-48, 1115 (4). *See also* Special days
 Statistical Office, 657, 765, 1120 (5), 2111
 Title to funds, 735
 Transportation Office, 765, 1120 (7), 2111

Council on World Service and Finance, cont'd:
 Treasurer, 737 (1), 738-39, 745-46, 759 (3), 760 (5), 763, 764 (6), 768-69, 772, 76, 778, 795, 804-6, 1117, 2111. *See also* Council on World Service and Finance: Central treasury; General secretary
 Vice-president, 1117, 2111

Counsel:
 Building projects, 1236-37, 1401 (1)
 Legal, 1006-7
 Premarital, 355-56

Courses of study, 1374, 2041-48

Admission into full connection, 343-44, 635, 1374, 2041 (8), 2045-48
 Admission on trial, 325 (2-3), 1374 (1), 2041 (6, 8), 2044-48

Advanced, 1374 (1)
 Approved supply pastors, 307 (2), 317-18, 651 (21), 1372 (3), 1374, 2041 (6-8, 10), 2044-48

Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, 317, 325 (2-3), 330, 343-44, 393 (2-4), 403 (2-4), 411 (2), 673-74, 1374 (2), 2041 (12). *See also* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications

Central Conferences, 331, 573
 Correspondence study, 673, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1374 (3-4), 2041 (1, 3, 5)

Credit for equivalent work, 327, 343 (3)

Deacon's orders, 393 (2-4)

Department of Ministerial Education, 307 (2), 317, 327, 343-44, 1372, 1374, 2041. *See also* Department of Ministerial Education

Discipline, 306 (4), 2043, 2047

Elder's orders, 403 (2-4)

Four-year ministerial course, 307 (2), 317-18, 325 (3), 327, 330, 343, 393 (2-4), 403 (2-4), 1374 (1), 2041 (7-8), 2045-48

Introductory studies for the ministry, 318, 325 (2), 327, 393 (3), 2041 (6), 2044

Courses of Study, cont'd:
 License to preach, 306 (4), 1374 (1), 2041 (3), 2043
 Local preachers, 306-7, 312, 1372 (3), 1374, 2041-48
 Methodist history, polity, and doctrine, 342, 344, 2041 (9), 2043-44, 2046-47
 Ministers from other churches, 411
 Pastors' schools, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1374 (2)
 Records, 674 (2)
 Special studies for minister without college degree, 330, 343 (2)
 Time limits, 307 (2), 317-18, 330
 Transfer to another conference, 431 (7)

Court:
 Appellate, 1026-32, 1045-49, 1057-60
 Juvenile, 1220
 Trial, 924-27, 935, 937, 959, 966, 973-74, 1057

Credentials:
 Bishop, 435 (2), 445
 Definition, 2100
 Deaconess, 1252 (11), 1254 (4b)

Deprivation and restoration, 991-96. *See also* Credentials:

Surrender

Issuance, 431 (9)

Minister from another church, 316 (2), 411-15

Restoration, 695 (3), 993, 995-96

Surrender, 311, 362 (3), 380-82, 432 (8), 636, 961, 992-93

See also Certificates; License to preach; Ordination

Credits:

Educational, 306-7, 317-18, 326-27, 344, 674, 2041 (11)

Income annuity, 1643 (5-7), 1646, 1647 (2-3), 1648 (1), 1652 (1), 1656 (4, 8-9)

Service annuity, 1624 (3), 1643 (4, 7), 1645 (7-8, 10), 1647 (1), 1648 (1), 1651 (1b), 1652 (1), 1633 (5c), 1656 (3, 7-9, 12b)

Crusade for Christ, 760 (4), 2016 (1)

Cuba Conference, 1757, 2008 (1), 2102

Cultivation, Promotion and Publication, Interagency Commission on, 1576-79, 2147

Current expenses, (local church), 148, 150 (1), 173 (1), 184, 261, 266-68

Curriculum:
 Church school, responsibility, 233 (3), 248 (5)
 Committee, 233 (3), 248 (5), 1143, 1146-47, 1287, 1390, 1425-26, 2135
 Materials, 1122, 1287, 1421-26

Czechoslovakia Conference, 1863 (3), 1875, 2008 (1), 2103

D

Dakotas Area, 2102

Dallas-Fort Worth Area, 2102

Day camps, 1401 (4)

Days, special. *See* Special days

Deacon, 8 (2), 391-93

Admission to full connection, 341

Authority, 392

Courses of study, 393 (2-4)

Credentials, 431 (9). *See also* Credentials

Definition, 2100

From another church, 411, 414-15

Local, 391-92, 393 (3-4), 411 (1), 695 (3), 994-96, 1238 (4), 2100

Ordination, 391, 431 (9), 1920

Requirements for eligibility, 393

Deaconess, 8 (2), 1252-54

Annual Conference relationship, 624, 651 (39c), 1254. *See also* Conference Deaconess

Board

Appeal, 1022-36, 1053-54

Appointment, 431 (5), 1241, 1254 (4c)

Central Conference, 573

Commission on Deaconess Work, 1252. *For details see* Commission on Deaconess Work

Deaconess, cont'd:

- Commissioning of, 1927
- Complaints and charges, 966-68, 982, 1264 (4f)
- Consecration, 1252 (1), 1254 (4d), 1925, 2100
- Credentials, 1252 (11), 1254 (4b)
- Debts, 968
- Definition, 1252 (1), 2100
- District Conference membership, 687
- Jurisdiction Deaconess Association, 1252 (3, 4c), 1253, 1254 (7), 1255 (3)
- Leave of absence, 1252 (10)
- Member of Official Board, 207 (1)
- Member of Quarterly Conference, 138 (2), 153 (2), 1252 (10)
- Minimum salary, 1252 (4b)
- Office authorized, 1252 (1)
- Pension plan, 1252 (9-10)
- Recommendation of, 142 (5), 146 (2), 1252 (4c, 12), 1254 (4b)
- Reinstatement, 1252 (12)
- Retirement, 1252 (9), 1253 (2b), 1254 (3)
- Sabbatical leave, 1252 (8)
- Standards, 1190-91, 1252 (4a)
- Trial, 966-68, 982, 1053-54, 1254 (4f)
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, relation to, 1240 (4), 1241, 1247 (5), 1252 (1a)

Debts:

- Agencies, administrative, 581 (4)
- Annual Conference, 634
- Building, 181
- Central Conference, 581 (4)
- Deaconess, 968
- Hospitals and homes, 1558 (6)
- Jurisdictional Conference, 533
- Local church, 157 (1), 164 (6), 166 (3), 180, 267 (8), 723
- Minister, 322 (5), 345 (18), 375, 1634 (1)

Decisions on questions of law:

- Appeals, 43, 362 (14), 547, 904-8, 1033-36
- Bishop's, 40, 43, 362 (14), 904, 908-9, 1034, 1036
- Constitutionality, 43-44, 903-5
- Declaratory, 904 (2), 914-17
- Digests of, 2002

Decisions on questions of law, cont'd:

- District superintendent's, 362 (14), 1034, 1036 (1)
- Judicial Council, 43-44, 903-18, 1033-34, 2001-2
- Proposed legislation, 904 (2)
- Publication, 918, 2001 (4, 9)

Declaration of Union, pages 7-8, 1**Declaratory decisions, 904 (2), 914-17. See also Decisions on questions of law****Dedication, ritual for:**

- Church building, 181, 1933
- Church-school building, 1936
- Educational building, 1938
- Home, 1939
- Hospital, 1937
- Memorial, 1940
- Organ, 1935
- Parish house, 1936

Dedication Sunday, 760 (1). See also Week of Dedication**Deeds (property) 164 (1, 2, 8), 166 (4), 167, 169, 171-72, 174, 180 (8), 188-89, 362 (7)****Definitions of terms:**

- Church, 101-4
- Deaconess, 1252 (1)
- Finance, 732
- General, 2100
- Ministry, 304, 314, 321, 351, 365, 367, 385, 446
- Pension regulations, 1614, 1618, 1643

Degree:

- Academic, 323-25
- Theological, 323-25, 330, 342, 344

Delaware Conference, 1769, 2102**Delegates:**

- Annual Conference. See Annual Conference: Membership
- Central Conference, 7, 17, 23-25, 542-43, 607
- District Conference, 143 (5), 687
- General Conference, 5, 7, 23-25, 501, 505-7, 509, 575, 602 (3), 605

Delegates, cont'd:

- Jurisdictional Conference, 7, 13, 23-25, 505 (4), 517-19, 526

Delhi Conference, 1871 (3), 1882, 2103**Denmark Conference, 1863 (4), 1879, 2008 (1), 2103****Denver Area, 2102****Department of the Christian Family, 1417 (1)****Department of Christian Social Relations, 1244, 1248, 2118**

- Chairman, 1244 (3), 1248 (3), 2118
- Co-operation with other agencies, 1547
- Executive secretary, 1244 (4), 1248 (3), 1280, 1536, 2118
- Standing committee, 1248 (3)

Department of City Work, 1215, 1217-28, 2117

- City or district missionary societies, 155 (1), 173 (2), 432 (4), 1218-27, 1295
- Convocation on Urban Work, 1228
- Duties, 1217-18, 1228

Department of College and University Religious Life, 1351 (3), 1363, 1404-6, 2127.**Department of Finance and Field Service, 1235 (11), 1236, 2117****Department of Good Will Industries, 432 (4), 1215, 1232, 2117****Department of Ministerial Education, 1351 (3), 1372-76, 2041, 2127**

- Advisory members, 1372 (1)
- Co-operation with other agencies, 669-70, 1372, 1374-75, 1415
- Correspondence Office, 1372 (3), 1374 (3-4), 2041 (1, 3, 5)
- Courses of study, 306 (4), 307 (2), 317 (2-3), 327, 1372 (3), 1374, 2041-48. See also Courses of study

Department of Ministerial Education, cont'd:

- Director of in-service training, 1372 (3-4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2041 (1), 2127
- Director of theological education, 1372 (2, 4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2127
- Duties, 1372 (4), 1374-76
- Organization, 1372
- Pastors' schools, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1374 (2), 2041 (3)
- Reports to, 362 (4, 10), 672
- Support, 1373

Department of Research and Surveys, 1215, 1233, 1304, 2117**Department of Secondary and Higher Education, 1351 (3), 1353, 2127****Department of Town and Country Work, 1215, 1229-31, 2117**

- Annual Conference commission, 1231
- Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230
- National Conference on Town and Country Work, 1229 (7)

Department of Work in Foreign Fields, 1244, 1245, 2118

- Administration of a Mission, 1206. See also Administration of a Mission
- Chairman, 1244 (3), 1245 (1), 2118
- Executive secretaries, 1244 (4), 1245 (1), 1280, 2118
- Field Committees and estimates, 1202-4
- Higher education, quadrennial emphasis, 2018
- Interdivision Committee on Foreign Work, 1199 (2)
- Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 1311-15, 2125
- Missionaries, 1189-92, 1205-7, 1241. See also Missionary
- Standing committee, 1245 (1)

Department of Work in Home Fields, 1244, 1247, 1280, 2118

- Administration of a Mission,

Department of Work in Home Fields, cont'd:
 1238. *See also* Administration of a Mission
 Chairman, 1244 (3), 1247 (1), 2118
 Commission on Deaconess Work, 1247 (5), 1252-54, 2119. *For details see* Commission on Deaconess Work; *also* Deaconess
 Committee on Co-operation and Counsel, 1247 (4), 1360
 Executive secretaries, 1244 (4), 1247 (1), 1280, 2118
 Interboard staff committee, Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1247 (3), 1567
 Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields, 1239, 1247 (2)
 Missionaries, 1189-92, 1241. *See also* Missionary Standing committee, 1247 (1)
Department of Worship and the Arts, National Council of Churches, 1569 (12)
Department of Youth Publications, 1404 (2), 1406 (1, 3), 2134
Dependency benefits, 1614, 1620-21, 1631 (7)
Depository for funds, 267 (4), 737 (8-9), 807-8, 1433, 1611 (11)
Deprivation and restoration of credentials, 991-96
Designated contributions, 267 (6)
Detached service, minister in. See Special appointment, minister in
Detroit Conference, 1793, 2102
Devises, 157 (3), 188 (3), 705-7, 711 (2-4), 785, 1170, 1467, 1557, 1610 (2). See also Bequests
Devotional literature, 221 (3), 222 (9-10), 1485, 2021 (2). See also Upper Room
Digests of Judicial Council decisions, 2002

Director:
 Adult work, 687, 1448, 1452
 Children's work, 687, 1448, 1452
 Christian education (local church), 143 (9), 209, 232, 246-49, 1396, 1401 (2), 1443, 1451, 1926
 Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 1587, 2151
 Corporation, 162 (3), 166 (1, 4), 172 (4-5), 176-78, 711 (1), 791, 1328, 1602 (3)
 Department, 783 (2d), 1180 (2), 1212, 1215 (3), 1217, 1269, 1276 (1), 1352 (2), 1471
 Department of Ministerial Education, 1372 (2-4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2041 (1), 2127
 Family life program, 234
 General church-school work, 687, 1448
 In-service training, 1372 (3-4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2041 (1), 2127
 Recreation, 235
 Religion in American Life, Inc., 1599, 2158
 Stewardship, 143 (10), 262-63
 Student work, 1370, 1404 (2), 1406 (2), 1448
 Temperance, district, 1534
 Theological education, 1372 (2, 4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2127
 Trustee, 166 (1), 177
 Wesley Foundation, 1367 (2)
 Youth work, 676, 687, 1448, 1452
Directory, 2101-76
 Advance Committee, 2149
 American Bible Society, 2157
 Association of Methodist Theological Schools, 2128
 Bishops:
 Addresses, 2101
 Assignments, 2102-3
 Council of, 2104
 Jurisdictional Colleges, 2105
 Board of Education, 2126
 Board of Evangelism, 2136
 Board of Hospitals and Homes, 2142
 Board of Lay Activities, 2137
 Board of Missions, 2115
 Board of Pensions, 2143
 Board of Publication, 2112
 Board of Social and Economic Relations, 2141

Directory, cont'd:
 Board of Temperance, 2139
 Board of World Peace, 2140
 Commission on Camp Activities, 2146
 Commission on Chaplains, 2145
 Commission on Church Union, 2153
 Commission on Deaconess Work, 2119
 Commission on Entertainment of the General Conference, 2108
 Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas, 2159
 Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System, 2160
 Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, 2148
 Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 2151
 Commission on Worship, 2144
 Co-ordinating Council, 2110
 Curriculum Committee, 2135
 Council on World Service and Finance, 2111
 Division of Educational Institutions, 2127
 Division of the Local Church, 2130
 Division of National Missions, 2117
 Division of World Missions, 2116
 Editorial Division, 2134
 Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 2132
 Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, 2124
 Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 2122
 Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 2123
 Joint Commission on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 2121
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 2120
 Judicial Council, 2106
 Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 2125
 Methodist Publishing House, 2113
 National Conference of Methodist Youth, 2131
 National Council of Churches (Methodist members), 2155
Directory, cont'd:
 Officers of Jurisdictional Conferences, 2109
 Quadrennial Commission on Christian higher Education, 2161
 Religion in American Life, 2158
 Secretary of the General Conference, 2107
 Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 2150
 Trustees of John Street Church, 2167
 Trustees of The Methodist Church, 2162-65
 University Senate, 2129
 Woman's Division of Christian Service, 2118
 World Council of Churches (Methodist members), 2156
 World Methodist Council, 2154
Disability of bishop, 424, 435 (3), 775
Disallowance of pension claim, 1627
Disciplinary (definition), 2100
Discipline:
 Administration of, 352 (11), 362 (6, 7)
 Central Conference edition, 574-75
 Definition, 2100
 Significance of, *pages 1-2*
 Study of, 306 (4), 2043, 2047
Discontinuance, 362 (3), 432 (8)
 Approved supply pastor, 320
 Educational institution, 1391 (1)
 Local church, 126, 188 (1), 354
 Local preacher, 310-11
 Minister. *See* Location of minister
 Preacher on trial, 321, 328, 330, 651 (27)
Dismissal, powers of, 1065
Distressed, visitation of, 215 (5)
Distributing Committee, 1609 (1). See also Boundaries
Distribution of annuities, 1610 (2), 1625

INDEX

Distribution of funds. *See* Ratio distribution of funds

District:

- Advance specials, 761 (4)
- Apportionments to, 795-802, 822-23, 826-28
- Board of Church Location and Building, 155 (1), 180 (2, 5, 7), 188-89, 651 (4c), 721-24
- Board of Lay Activities, 1508-10
- Board of Stewards, 716 (2), 797, 802. *See also* District: Steward
- Board of Trustees, 716 (2)
- Boundaries, 431 (3), 716 (3)
- Committee on Evangelism, 221 (1), 1481-83
- Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, 146 (1), 306-7, 310, 312, 315 (1), 320, 322 (2), 362 (4), 376, 393 (4), 403 (4), 411 (1-2), 651 (4c), 690, 695. *See also* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications; Ministry
- Committee on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 1590
- Conference. *See below* District Conference
- Definition, 2100
- Director of Temperance, 1534
- Educational directors, 687, 1448
- Lay leaders, 687, 1503, 1508-10
- Methodist Men, 1511
- Missionary institute, 1300
- Missionary secretary, 762 (5), 1295, 1302 (2)
- Missionary society, 155 (1), 173 (2), 761 (4), 1218-27, 1229 (6), 1295
- Parsonage, 651 (45), 716, 801
- Property, 716
- Steward, 143 (3), 687, 716 (1-2), 797, 802
- Treasurer, 802
- Trustees, 687, 716 (2)
- Woman's Society of Christian Service. *See below* District Woman's Society of Christian Service

District Conference, 30, 686-91

- Adaptations by Central Conference, 566
- Advance specials, 761 (4)

District Conference, cont'd:

- Annual Conference authority over, 686, 691
- Decisions on questions of law, 40, 43 (2-3), 362 (14), 1034
- Definition, 2100
- Elections, 716 (2)
- General Conference authority over, 8 (3)
- Local preachers, 362 (4), 411 (1), 690, 695 (2), 957-65, 981
- Membership, 143 (5), 687
- Parsonage, 651 (45), 716, 801
- Powers and duties, 689-91, 695
- Presiding officer, 40, 43 (2-3), 362 (5, 14), 686, 1034
- Property, 716
- Recommendation of candidates for ministry, 322 (2)
- Records, 362 (13), 691, 721
- Reports to, 312, 689, 690, 695 (5), 716 (2), 721
- Secretary, 691, 1024
- Sessions, 688

District superintendent, 361-63

- Agency membership, 1583 (2)
- Appointed by bishop, 361, 432 (3)
- Appointment of preachers by, 351, 362 (3), 432 (1, 2, 5), 826 (2)
- Boundaries of district, 431 (3)
- Cabinet. *See* Cabinet
- Chairman, 352 (14), 695, 797, 802
- Church schools, responsibility for, 362 (15c), 1448
- City or district missionary societies, 1219, 1224
- Decisions on questions of law, 362 (14), 1034, 1036 (1)
- Definition, 2100
- District Conference, 686-91. *See also* District Conference
- Duties, 103, 119, 121, 126, 139-41, 143 (3), 145 (2), 147, 149, 154-55, 168, 170-72, 175-76, 178, 180 (1, 6), 184, 186, 188-90, 197, 199, 206, 242, 271, 308-9, 311, 316-17, 352 (13, 14), 353-54, 362, 364-65, 370, 378, 382, 432 (1, 2, 5), 641, 646, 686, 688, 695, 721, 752, 762 (4), 764 (1), 791, 796-97, 802, 810, 827 (1), 923, 929, 932-35, 958-61, 966, 973-75, 1058-60, 1206, 1215 (4), 1219, 1224,

INDEX

District superintendent, cont'd:

- 1231 (1), 1238 (4), 1272, 1291, 1300, 1302 (2), 1448, 1482-83, 1508-10, 1534, 1923
- Educational program, 362 (15e), 1448
- Expenses, 801-2
- Judicial administration, 923, 929, 932-35, 939, 973-75
- Local preachers, 306 (2), 308-9, 311, 316-17, 353, 362 (2-4, 9), 363, 695 (2)
- Missionary institutes, 1300
- Missions, administration of, 1206 (3-4), 1219, 1224
- Nominations by, 716 (2), 721, 1510
- Parsonage for, 716
- Provisional Annual Conference, 608
- Quarterly Conference records, 141, 154, 197
- Reports by, 362 (4, 10-13), 646, 651 (8)
- Reports to, 721
- Reserve pension fund, 1643 (2b)
- Special appointments, 432 (5)
- Supervision by, 308-9, 316 (1), 341, 352 (13), 362 (1-2, 8-9)
- Support, 147, 261, 651 (10), 801-2, 821-23, 827
- Tenure, 432 (3)
- Trial of, 933-34

District Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1256 (3), 1257, 1276 (2)

- Amendments to constitution, 1257 (6)
- Constitution, 1257
- Elections, 1257 (5)
- Meetings, 1257 (5)
- Membership, 1257 (3)
- President, 687, 1257 (4)
- Purpose, 1257 (2)
- Recording secretary, 1257 (4)
- Reports, 1257 (5)

Diversion of funds prohibited, 267 (5-6), 535, 581 (4), 808, 1354 (5), 1404 (3)

Division, 783 (1a). For individual divisions see the following listings

Division, Editorial, 1145-53. For details see Editorial Division

Division of Christian Service, Woman's. See Woman's Division of Christian Service

Division of Educational Institutions, 1327, 1333-38, 1351-76, 2127

- Advisory committee, 1333-34
- Budget, 1333 (2), 1336 (1), 1337, 1373, 1378 (2), 1389
- Campus-Church Relations Committee, 1365 (2-3)
- Chairman, 1327 (4), 1334, 2127
- Classification of institutions, 1383-84, 1390, 1391 (2)
- Colleges, 1363-70, 1390, 1391 (2), 2018 (2), 2199. *See also* College; Educational institutions
- Commission on Standards for Wesley Foundations, 1367
- Department of College and University Religious Life, 1351 (3), 1363, 1404-6, 2127
- Co-operation with other agencies, 1355, 1357, 1360, 1372 (4), 1374 (2), 1375, 1386-91, 1402, 1404-6, 1410
- Department of Ministerial Education, 1351 (3), 1372-76, 2041, 2127. *See also* Department of Ministerial Education
- Department of Secondary and Higher Education, 1351 (3), 1353, 2127
- Elections, 1372 (1-3)
- Executive Committee on Religious Life, 1365 (2)
- General secretary, 1286, 1327 (5), 1333 (3), 1335-35, 1352 (2), 1372 (2-4), 1388, 1404 (4), 1405 (2), 1426 (2), 1436-37, 1448, 1536, 2127
- Interconference Commission on Student Religious Work, 1370
- Membership, 1327 (2-3)
- Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 296 (1d), 1356 (3)
- Methodist Student Movement, 1369-70. *See also* Methodist Student Movement
- National Methodist Student Commission, 1404 (2), 1405, 1406 (2). *See also* National Conference of Methodist Youth
- Negroes, education of, 1357. *See also* Race Relations Sunday
- Powers and duties, 1351-76, 1378 (2), 1384-91

Division of Educational Institutions, cont'd:

Promotional publications, 1153
Race Relations Sunday, 250 (3), 296 (1b), 1340, 1356 (3)
Recording secretary, 1334, 2127
Reports by, 1336 (1)
Reports to, 1354 (2), 1355 (2-3), 1359, 1367-68
Representatives on other agencies, 1286, 1595 (1)
Scholarships, National Methodist, 250 (4), 1353
Schools of theology, 1378-80. *For details see* Schools of theology
Staff, 1327 (8), 1335-36, 1351 (4), 1352 (2), 1372, 1405
Student Loan Fund, 250 (4), 1358
Student religious work, 1364-70, 1402-6, 1429, 1442, 1448
University Senate, 1382-91, 2129. *For details see* University Senate
Wesley Foundations, 1351 (1), 1364-69. *For details see* Wesley Foundation
See also Educational institutions

Division of Home Missions and Church Extension. See Division of National Missions

Division of the Local Church, 1327, 1333-38, 1396-1410, 2130

Advisory committee, 1333-34
Appeals for funds, 1409
Budget, 1333 (2), 1336 (1), 1337
Buildings and equipment, church-school, 1401 (1)
Camping, standards for, 1401 (4)
Chairman, 1327 (4), 1334, 2130
Church schools, program of Christian education in, 248 (1), 251, 1396-1403. *See also* Church school
Co-operation with other agencies, 1399-1400, 1402, 1404-10, 1412-18
Department of the Christian Family, 1417 (1)
Directors of Christian education, standards for, 247 (2), 1401 (2), 1451 (1)
Duties, 1396-1402, 1404-10
General Committee on Family Life, 1417, 2133

Division of the Local Church, cont'd:

General secretary, 1283, 1286, 1327 (5), 1333 (3), 1335-36, 1404 (4), 1405 (2), 1407 (2), 1414, 1416, 1418, 1426 (2), 1436-37, 1448, 1536, 2130
Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 1372 (4), 1375, 1415, 2132. *See also* Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations
Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1286-88, 1413, 2122. *See also* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education
Joint Committee on Architecture, 1414
Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1283-85, 2121
Joint Committee on Temperance Education, 1416
Leadership education, 1396-98
Manuals for church schools, 244 (2), 248 (1), 251
Membership, 1327 (2-3)
Methodist Conference on Christian Education, 1400, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1438, 1455
Methodist Youth Fellowship, 1403. *For details see* Methodist Youth Fellowship
Methodist Youth Fund, 1413 (2)
Ministers of music, standards for, 1401 (3), 1451 (1)
Missionary education, 1397, 1413 (2). *See also* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education
National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1404-5, 1415 (2). *For details see* National Conference of Methodist Youth
National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians, 1401 (3)
National Methodist Student Commission, 1404 (2), 1405, 1406 (2)
National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission, 1172 (6), 1405, 1406 (1)
Promotional publications, 1153
Recording secretary, 1334, 2130
Reports by, 1336 (1)
Representatives on other agencies, 1289, 1595 (1)

Division of the Local Church, cont'd:

Special days, 250 (2, 5, 6). *See also* Special days
Staff, 1327 (8), 1335-36, 1405, 2130
Youth Department, 1406 (1, 3), 2130
Youth work, 1402-6. *For details see* Methodist Youth Fellowship; National Conference of Methodist Youth

Division of National Missions, 1178-80, 1208-39, 2117

Administration of a Mission, 1238
Advance specials, 745-46, 759-61. *See also* Advance
Annuities, 1211
Appropriations, 1211, 1215 (2), 1216, 1217, 1222, 1225, 1226, 1229 (3), 1232, 1241, 1277
Authorization, 1178-79, 1208, 1211
Bilingual work, 1215 (4), 1220, 1222
Bishops, co-operation with, 1216
Buildings, church, 1217, 1220, 1227, 1235-37
Church extension, 1213, 1219, 1235-37. *For details see* Section of Church Extension
Convocation on Urban Work, 1228
Department of Architecture, 1235 (11), 1237, 2117
Department of City Work, 1215 (1), 1217-28, 2117. *For details see* Department of City Work
Department of Finance and Field Service, 1235 (11), 1236, 2117
Department of Goodwill Industries, 432 (4), 1215 (1), 1232, 2117
Department of Research and Survey, 1215 (1), 1233, 1304, 2117
Department of Town and Country Work, 1215 (1), 1229-31, 2117. *For details see* Department of Town and Country Work
Elections, 1211-12, 1215 (3), 1268
Fields of labor, recommendations of, 1211
General secretary, 750 (2), 758

Division of National Missions, cont'd:

(1), 1179, 1212, 1216, 1280, 1536, 1595 (1), 2117
Incorporation, 1167, 1209
Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, 1289, 2124
Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1286-88, 2122. *See also* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education
Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230, 2123. *For details see* Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work
Interdenominational co-operation, 1229 (4)
Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields, 1239, 1247 (2)
Joint Commission on Co-operation and Counsel (with Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), 1290
Joint Committee on Architecture, 1414
Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel, 1189-90, 2115
Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1268, 1276 (1). *See also* Joint Section of Education and Cultivation
Loan fund, 1235 (8)
Meetings, 1210
Membership, 1172 (3), 1178 (2), 1210, 2117
Missionaries, 1189-92, 1238 (2-4). *See also* Missionary
Nominations, 1175, 1176 (6), 1179 (1), 1180 (2), 1211-12
Organization, 1208-10, 1214, 2117
Pensions, responsibility, 1637
Powers and duties, 1211-13, 1303
President, 1212, 2117
Radio stations, 1211
Recording secretary, 1212, 2117
Reports to, 1221-22
Representatives on other agencies, 758 (1), 1239, 1240 (3), 1417 (2), 1595 (1)
Salaries, 1179 (2), 1212
Secretarial council, 1280
Section of Church Extension, 1214, 1235-37, 1303, 2117.

Division of National Missions,
cont'd:
For details see Section of
 Church Extension
 Section of Home Missions,
 1214-33, 2117. *For details*
see Section of Home Missions
 Special gifts, 745-46, 759-61.
See also Advance
 Staff, 1179-83, 1188, 1211-12,
 2117
 Support, 1185-86
 Treasurer, 1182-83, 1188, 1212,
 2117
 Vacancies, 1211-12
 Vice-president, 1212, 2117

Division of World Missions,
 1178-80, 1193-1207, 2116
 Administration of a Mission,
 1206
 Advance specials, 745-46, 759-
 60. *See also* Advance
 Affiliated autonomous churches,
 1205, 1207. *See also* Affiliated
 autonomous churches
 Annuities, 1196
 Appropriations, 1196, 1200
 Authorization, 1178 (1), 1193,
 1196
 Central Conference, relation to,
 548, 556, 581 (3-4), 2012
 Contingent fund, 1200
 Elections, 1196, 1201
 Estimates, 1202-4
 Field Committees, 1203
 Fields of labor, recommenda-
 tions of, 1196, 1199 (1)
 General secretary, 75 (2), 758
 (1), 1179, 1201, 1280, 1536,
 1595 (1) 2116
 Higher education, emphasis,
 2018
 Incorporation, 1167, 1194
 Interboard Committee on Mis-
 sionary Education, 1286-88,
 2122. *See also* Interboard
 Committee on Missionary
 Education
 Interdenominational co-opera-
 tion, 1205, 1207
 Interdivision Committee on
 Foreign Work, 1199 (2)
 Joint Committee on Christian
 Education in Foreign Fields
 1283-85, 2121
 Joint Committee on Missionary
 Personnel, 1189-90, 2115
 Joint Section of Education and
 Cultivation, 1268, 1276 (1).

Division of World Missions,
cont'd:
See also Joint Section of
 Education and Cultivation
 Meetings, 1195
 Membership, 1172 (3), 1178
 (2), 1195, 2116
 Methodist Committee for Over-
 seas Relief, 1311-15, 2125.
For details see Methodist
 Committee for Overseas Re-
 lief
 Missionaries, 1189-92, 1198,
 1206-7. *See also* Missionary
 Missionaries' meeting, 1206 (5)
 Nominations by, 1173, 1176
 (6), 1179 (1), 1180 (2),
 1196, 1201
 Organization, 1193-95, 1201,
 2116
 Powers and duties, 1196-1201
 President, 1201, 2116
 Recording secretary, 1201, 2116
 Representatives on other agen-
 cies, 758 (1), 1240 (3), 1311,
 1417 (2), 1595 (1)
 Salaries, 1179 (2), 1201
 Secretarial council, 1280
 Special gifts, 745-46, 759-60.
See also Advance
 Staff, 1179-83, 1188, 1196, 1201,
 2116
 Support, 1185-86
 Treasurer, 1182-83, 1188, 1201,
 2116
 Vacancies, 1196, 1201
 Vice-president, 1201, 2116

Division superintendents,
 church school, 143 (8), 232,
 246 (3)

Division Committee on the
 Local Church, 1409 (2)

Divorce, 356, 2020 (III A), 2021

Doctrine, 9 (1), 61-87, 316 (2),
 342, 344, 345 (8-10), 352
 (4), 411, 921, 944, 951, 962.
See also Articles of Religion

Dominican Republic, 1213, 1245,
 1247, 1735

Drugs, narcotic, 1522, 1533,
 2020 (III C), 2022 (3)

E

East China Conference, 1861
 (1), 1876, 2103

East Tennessee Conference,
 1770, 2102

Eastern Asia:
 Affiliated autonomous churches,
 1885
 Annual Conferences, 1861-62
 Areas, episcopal, 2103
 Central Conference, 1876
 Map of The Methodist
 Church, page 517

Economic relations. *See* Board
 of Social and Economic Re-
 lations; Social Creed

Ecumenical Methodist Council.
See World Methodist Coun-
 cil

Editor:
 Abingdon Press, 2113
 Appointment of, episcopal, 432
 (4, 5)
 Board of Education. *See* Edi-
 torial Division
 Board of Missions, 1180 (1),
 1271, 1276 (2), 2118, 2120
 Book editor, 1132-33, 1143,
 1147, 1418, 1425-26, 1568
 (1), 2113
 Central Christian Advocate,
 1144 (3-5), 2113
 Children's publications, 2113,
 2134
 Church-school publications,
 1132, 1143, 1145-49, 1152,
 1422-26, 2134. *See also* Edi-
 torial Division: General sec-
 retary
 College texts, 2113
 General church periodicals,
 1132, 1144, 2113
 Methodist Layman, 2137
 Methodist Woman, 2118
 Motive, 2127
 New Christian Advocate, 1591
 (2a), 2113
 Official church papers. *See*
 General church periodicals
 Religion in Life, 1133, 1143,
 2113
 Religious books, 2113
 Salary, 1132
 Tidings, 2136
 Together, 2113
 Upper Room, 1485, 2136
 World Outlook, 2120
 Youth publications, 2127, 2131,
 2134
See also Publications

Editorial Division, 1327, 1333-
38, 1421-27, 2134
 Advisory committee, 1333-34
 Assistant editors, 1423
 Chairman, 1327 (4), 1334, 2134
 Co-operation with other agen-
 cies, 1396, 1400
 Curriculum Committee, 233
 (3), 248 (5), 1143, 1146-47,
 1287, 1396, 1425-26, 2135
 Department of Youth Publica-
 tions, 1404 (2), 1406, (1,
 3), 2134
 Duties, 1425
 Editor of church-school pub-
 lications, 1132, 1143, 1145-
 49, 1152, 1422-26, 2134
 General secretary, 1236, 1327
 (5), 1335-36, 1405 (2),
 1418, 1422, 1426, 1436-37,
 1448, 1536, 2134
 Joint Committee on Materials
 for Training for Church
 Membership, 1418
 Membership, 1327 (2-3)
 Recording secretary, 1334, 2134
 Reports, 1336 (1)
 Representatives on other agen-
 cies, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1417
 (2), 1595 (1)
 Support, 1425

Education:
 Alcohol-narcotic, 1533, 2020
 (III C), 2022. *See also* Edu-
 cation: Temperance
 And Cultivation, Joint Section
 of, 1268-77. *For details see*
 Joint Section of Education
 and Cultivation.
 Board of, 1324-1455. *For de-
 tails see* Board of Education;
 Conference Board of Educa-
 tion; Jurisdictional Board of
 Education
 Commission on (local church),
 231-51. *For details see* Com-
 mission on Education
 Director of Christian, 143 (9),
 209, 232, 246 (1, 3), 247,
 248-49, 1396, 1401 (2),
 1443, 1451, 1926
 District superintendent's re-
 sponsibility, 362 (15e)
 Higher, 1351, 1353, 2018, 2161
 In Foreign Fields, Joint Com-
 mittee on Christian, 1283-85,
 2121
 Leadership, 243, 1396-98, 1436,
 1442

INDEX

Education, cont'd:

- Local-church program, 231-51.
For details see Church school; Commission on Education
- Methodist Church, The, knowledge of, 291 (2), 292 (7), 344, 352 (4), 1379
- Ministerial. See Ministerial education
- Pastor's responsibility, 248 (2), 352 (5-7, 17-20, 22c-f, i)
- Stewardship, 263, 292 (2), 753 (4), 1492, 1512-14
- Temperance, 1416, 1521-22, 1533, 2020 (III C), 2022

Educational:

- Assistant, 143 (9), 209, 246 (1), 1451 (1)
- Building, ritual for dedication of, 1936, 1938
- Conferences, 1398 (2), 1408
- History, minister's, 674 (3)
- Institutions. See below Educational institutions
- Requirements for ministerial candidates, 306-7, 317-18, 323-25, 331, 342-44, 670, 673-74, 1372 (4), 1374, 2041-48. See also Ministerial education

Educational institutions:

- Accreditation, 307 (1), 316 (1), 318 (1), 323-25, 342, 432 (7), 661 (25-26), 1382-91. See also University Senate
- Appointments to, episcopal, 432 (4-5, 7)
- Campus-Church Relations Committee, 1365 (2-3)
- Classification of, 1383-84, 1390, 1391 (2). See also University Senate
- Conference Board of Education, 1442, 1448, 1450
- Discontinuance, 1391 (1)
- Division of, 1351-75, 2127. For details see Division of Educational Institutions
- Executive Committee on Religious Life, 1365 (2)
- Financial support, 689 (5), 810, 1385-86, 1391 (2), 1450
- Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1429
- Methodist Student Movement, 1369-70. For details see Methodist Student Movement
- New or expanded, 1391

Educational institutions, cont'd:

- Promotion of enrollment, 149 (1), 233 (6f), 352 (17), 362 (15e), 689(5)
- Quadrennial emphasis on higher education, 2018
- Racial policies, 2026 (1)
- Standards, 1382-91
- Student religious work, 1363-70, 1404-6
- Trustees, 711 (2), 728
- See also College; Institutions; Schools of theology

Effective minister, definition, 2100

Elder, 8 (2), 401-5

- Authority, 402
- Character, 405
- Consecration of bishop, 442
- Courses of study, 403 (2-4)
- Credentials, 431 (9). See also Credentials
- Definition, 2100
- From another church, 411, 414-15
- Local, 401-2, 403 (3-4), 404-5, 411 (1), 695 (3), 994-96, 1238 (4), 2100
- Ordination, 401, 431 (9), 563, 1921
- Requirements for eligibility, 403-5

Elections. See under name of electing body; see also Ballot; Vote

Emergency:

- Aid for ministers, 828
- Appeal, financial, 748, 810, 1115 (4), 1313
- Changes in financial plan, 748, 762 (6), 810
- Relief for conference claimants, 1611 (9-10), 1620 (5), 1623 (3-4), 1625 (2), 1630 (3), 1631 (5)

Emphasis, quadrennial, 2016-19

Employee:

- Dismissal, 1065
- Local church, 145 (3)
- Not eligible to agency membership, 791-92, 1103, 1111, 1116, 1430, 1443
- Pension Fund, Lay, 1658-59
- Uniform titles, 783 (2), 1120 (3)

INDEX

Enabling acts, 1768, 1773, 1851, 1876, 2003-9

Endowments, 362 (11), 1183-84, 1558 (3), 1604 (3), 1605

Enrollment, Golden Cross Society, 296 (3a), 1559

Entertainment of General Conference, Commission on, 2108

Episcopacy, 34-41, 421-46

- Central Conference, 20, 441-45
- Committee on, 526, 926
- General Conference relationship to, 8 (5)
- Restrictive Rule, 9 (2)
- See also Bishop; College of Bishops; Council of Bishops; Episcopal administration

Episcopal administration, 34-41, 421-46

- Addresses of bishops, 2101
- Annual Conference sessions, 626-28
- Appeals from judicial decisions, 43 (2), 362 (14), 547, 908-9, 1034-36
- Assignment of bishops, 20 (5), 37-38, 435 (3), 436 (4), 437 (1), 439-41, 446, 526, 546, 560 (1), 604, 775-76, 2005, 2102-3
- Central Conference, 20, 422-24, 427, 438, 441-45, 446 (3), 544-47, 560, 2004-5, 2103
- Complaint against, 947
- Decisions on questions of law, 40, 43, 362 (14), 547, 908-9, 1034-36. See also Decisions on questions of law
- Jurisdictional Conference, 422-23, 439-40, 523-26, 2005, 2102
- Mission fields, 431 (8), 439, 446 (1), 589, 591-93, 603-4, 607-8, 615, 1206, 1233, 2005, 2103. See also Episcopal administration: Central Conference
- Outside jurisdictions and Central Conferences, 592-93, 2005 (1)
- Provisional Annual Conference, 607-10
- Transfer of bishops, 38
- Vacancies, 38, 436 (4), 437 (1), 446 (3), 2004 (5), 2005

Episcopal administration, cont'd:

- Visitation, 20 (4-5), 546, 560 (1), 593, 604, 773
 - See also, Bishop; College of Bishops; Council of Bishops
- ## Episcopal area, 37-38
- Assignment. See Episcopal administration: Assignment of bishops
 - Boundaries, 37, 440, 526, 560, 712
 - List of areas, 2102-3
 - Office addresses, 2101
 - Residence, 440, 526, 560, 712, 770, 772
 - Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1583 (5)

Episcopal Fund, 147, 427, 435 (2), 559, 651 (12b), 732, 735, 737 (1, 12), 738, 769-77, 785, 799, 805, 822, 928, 1659 (4), 2011 (2b)

Episcopal Greetings, pages 1-2

Equities, distribution of, with boundary change, 184, 534, 712, 716 (3), 1609

Equivalent credit, courses of study, 327, 343 (3)

Erie Conference, 1718, 2102

Error:

- Administration, 949
- Judgment, 948
- Judicial proceedings, 1036

Estonia, 1864 (1)

Ethics, code of, hospitals and homes, 1566

Ethnic groups, mission work among, 1215 (2)

Europe:

- Annual Conferences, etc., 1863-64
- Arcas, episcopal, 2103
- Central Conferences, 1875, 1879
- Map of The Methodist Church, page 513

Evangelism:

- Board of, 1464-85. For details see Board of Evangelism
- Call to (resolution), 2029
- Church school, 241, 1396-97

INDEX

Evangelism, cont'd:

Commission on Membership and (local church), 125, 143 (6), 144, 209, 219-22, 234, 256, 292 (1)
Conference Board of, 651 (4a), 1478-80, 1533 (2)
Conference evangelists, 353, 363, 432 (6), 1474 (2), 1480
Conference secretary of, 1479, 1533 (2)
District Committee on, 221 (1), 1481-83
District secretary of, 1483
District superintendent's duties, 362 (15b, g), 1482-83
Jurisdictional Board of, 1476-77
Local-church program, 222
Methodist Men, 291 (3), 292 (1)
Literature, 221 (3), 222 (6), 222 (9)

Every-member canvass, 257 (7), 267 (1), 271, 292 (2)

Examinations of ministerial candidates, 306-7, 315 (1), 322 (4-5), 341, 345, 671, 695 (2), 2041. See also Courses of study

Executive committee:

Advance Committee, 760 (3)
Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 1591 (2a), 2152
Board of Education, 1327 (6), 1332-34
Board of Evangelism, 1470, 2136
Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1555 (2), 2142
Board of Missions, 1175
Board of Pensions, 1603 (2), 2143
Board of Publication, 1135-36, 2112
Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1548, 2141
Board of Temperance, 1525 (2), 2139
Central Conference, 544-45, 548, 580
Conference Board of Education, 1447
Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, 792

Executive committee cont'd:

Council on World Service and Finance, 739, 753 (5), 776, 1117, 1119, 2111
Interboard Commission on Christian Vocations, 1415 (3)
Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1434
Jurisdictional Board of Temperance, 1530
Methodist Protestant Church, 2106
On Religious Life (educational institution), 1365 (2)

Executive officer:

Agencies, administrative, 783 (2), 1120 (2), 1595 (1)
City or district missionary society, 1224
Methodist Publishing House. See Publisher

Executive secretary, 432 (4), 502, 783 (2c), 1065, 1103, 1595 (1)

Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 1591 (2b, d, 3a-b), 2152

Board of Missions, 1179, 2116-19

Commission on Deaconess Work, 1252 (1c, 3), 2119

Conference Board of Education, 362 (15c), 432 (4), 675, 755 (2), 1231 (1), 1370, 1436, 1444, 1446, 1448-49, 1452, 1533 (2)

Department of Christian Social Relations, 1244 (4), 1248 (3), 1280, 1536, 2118

Department of Work in Foreign Fields, 1244 (4), 1245 (1), 1280, 2118, 1244 (4),

Department of Work in Home Fields, 1244 (4), 1247 (1), 1280, 2118

Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 1252 (3), 1415 (4), 2132

Interboard Committee on Missionary Education 1288, 1426 (2), 2122

Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1284

Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1430, 1432, 1435, 1436-37

Preachers' aid society, 432 (4)
University Sonnet, 1388, 1390, 2129

INDEX

Executive secretary, cont'd:

Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1179, 1243, 2118
See further under names of above agencies

Executive session of ministerial members, 646

Exhorter. See Lay speaker

Expenses:

Automobile, pastor's, 829
Bishop, 769-70, 772-73, 776
Conference agencies, 812
Current (local church), 148, 173 (1), 184, 261, 266-68
District superintendent, 801-2
General Conference, 765, 2012 (4)
Jurisdictional Court of Appeals, 1049
Moving to new pastoral charge, 148
Pastor's, 829

Expulsion:

Bishop, 951
Church member, 974-77
Minister, 362 (3), 432 (8), 651 (38a), 991-95

Extension secretary, church-school, 432 (4), 1407 (2)

F

Family, Christian:

Christian Home, The, 2021 (2)
Church Committee on Family Life, 234
Conference Committee on Family Life, 1436, 1452
Conferences on family life, 1417 (1)
Department of the Christian Family, 1417 (1), 2130
Director of family life program, 234
General Committee on Family Life, 1417 (1), 2133
Local-church program, 145 (11), 233 (6e), 234, 250 (5-6), 2021 (5)
National Family Week, 250 (5), 296 (2a)
Periodical for, 1144. See also Together
Resolutions of General Conference, 2020 (III A), 2021
Upper Room, The, 2021 (2)

Family, Christian, cont'd:

Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1242

Farm and Home, Committee on (local church), 145 (11)

Federated church, 189 (1), 432 (4), 1230 (3d), 1623 (6), 1643 (2c)

Federation of Methodist Women, World, 568, 1249 (1), 2032

Fellowship

And Recreational Life, Committee on (local church), 145 (10), 235
Evangelism, 222 (12)
Methodist Men, promotion of, 291 (4)
Methodist Musicians, National, 1401 (3)
Methodist Sunday Evening, 243
Methodist Youth. See Methodist Youth Fellowship
Suffering and Service, 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 750 (1-2), 763, 785, 805, 1313
Young Adult, 209, 234, 244 (1), 1397

Fidelity insurance, 807. See also Bond, surety

Fiduciary trusts, 535, 581 (4). See also Trust fund

Field Committee, 1202-4, 1246

Field Service, Department of Finance and, 1235 (11), 1236, 2117

File of Pastors and Church Officials, 657, 765, 1120 (8), 2111

Films. See Audio-visual; Television, Radio, and Film Commission

Finance, 731-830

Advance specials, 750 (1), 752, 757-62
Agencies, administrative, 737-38, 741-43, 753, 759-65, 781-84, 793-95, 804, 807-8, 812.
See also under name of individual agency

INDEX

Finance, cont'd.:

American Bible Society, 1598
Annuity, special gifts subject to, 362 (11), 737 (10), 745-46, 1196, 1211, 1235 (8-9), 1241, 1612 (5-6)
Appeals, financial, 743-48, 759-64, 810-11
Apportionments, 142 (7), 145 (8), 147-48, 261, 738, 795-802, 804-5, 822-23, 826-28, 1623-24, 2100
Basis for, 731
Benevolences, 147, 261, 741-64, 793-97
Bishops' support. *See* Episcopal Fund
Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, 791-812
Council on World Service and Finance, 735-49, 765-80, 1116-20, 2111
District superintendents' support, 147, 261, 651 (10), 801-2, 821-23, 827
Emergency changes in financial plan, 748, 762 (6), 810
Episcopal Fund, 769-77
Fellowship of Suffering and Service Fund, 763
General Administration Fund, 765-68
General Conference authority, 8 (9). *See also* General Conference: Fiscal responsibilities
Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, 778
Local church. *See below* Finance, local church
Long-range objectives, 1115 (3)
Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 1311-15
"Methodist," use of name, 701
Ministerial support, 148, 215 (2), 261, 267 (7), 771, 821-30, 1624
Promotion, 743-48, 750-64
Ratio distribution of funds, 737 (4), 742, 748, 766, 794-95, 804
Remittance of funds, 738, 745-46, 785, 801-2, 804-5, 823
Special days, 296, 737 (5), 747, 1115 (4)
Special gifts, 743-48, 750 (1), 752, 757-64, 1311-15. *See also* Advance; Annuity
Television Ministry Fund, 764
Treasurer. *See* Conference treas-

Finance, cont'd.:

urer; Council on World Service and Finance: Treasurer; also Treasurer
Week of Dedication, 760
World service and conference benevolences, 147, 268, 795-97, 804
World Service Fund, 741-49
For details see individual listings of above topics. See also Property
Finance, local church, 147-48, 261-72
Advance specials, 149 (3), 757-62. *See also* Advance
Apportionments, 142 (7), 145 (8), 147-48, 261, 738, 795-802, 804-5, 822-23, 826-28, 1623-24, 2100
Bank account, 267 (4)
Basic salary plan, 827
Benevolences, 142 (7), 145 (8), 147, 149 (3), 150 (2), 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5-7), 261, 266-68, 282 (3-4), 296 (1, 3), 1226
Bishop's support, 147, 261, 771. *See also* Episcopal Fund
Borrowing funds, 157 (1), 166 (3), 171-73, 180 (4e, 8-10), 723-24, 1235-36, 1303 (5), 1612 (3)
Budget, 266-68
Building and remodeling costs, 150 (1), 164 (5-6), 180 (4e, 8-10), 723, 1236 (1-2)
Christian stewardship, 257 (7), 262-63, 292 (2), 1512-14
Church school, 233 (6g), 250, 1409 (2)
Church School Rally Day, 250 (2), 296 (1f)
Circuit, 145 (8), 147-48
Commission on Stewardship and Finance, 143 (6), 144, 219, 261-72
Conference claimants, 147, 261, 823, 1624
Current expenses, 148, 150 (1), 173 (1), 184, 261, 266-68
Debts, 157 (1), 164 (6), 166 (3), 180, 267 (8), 723
Deficit, 267 (2)
Designated contributions, 267 (6)
Director of stewardship, 143 (10), 262-63
District Conference responsibility, 689

INDEX

Finance, local church, cont'd.:

District superintendent's duties, 147, 149 (3), 302 (15g), 752, 755, 762 (4)
District superintendent's support, 147, 261, 802, 823, 827 (4)
Evangelistic and devotional literature, 221 (3)
Every-member canvass, 257 (7), 267 (1), 292 (2)
Expenses paid pastor, 148, 829
Financial secretary, 212, 262, 266-70
Fund-raising agent, 271
Games of chance prohibited, 272
General Administration Fund, 147, 805
Golden Cross Enrollment, 296 (3a), 1559 (1)
Guarantees, personal, for debts, 166 (3). *See also* Liability
Insurance, 164 (7)
Liability for debts, 157 (1), 166 (3)
Local expense. *See* Current expenses
Lotteries prohibited, 272
Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 296 (1d)
Methodist Youth Fund, 1285 (2), 1413 (2)
Minimum salary fund, 147, 826
Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, 1646 (1), 1656 (4a)
Official Board responsibilities, 150 (1), 212-13, 215 (1-3, 6), 261. *See also* Commission on Stewardship and Finance
Pastor's duties, 147, 149 (3), 352 (22f)
Pastor's salary and expenses, 145 (7-8), 148, 150 (1), 215 (2), 261, 267 (7), 278 (5), 821-29, 1624, 1646 (1), 1656 (4a)
Pledges, 267 (1, 3)
Quarterly Conference responsibilities, 142 (6-7), 147-48, 150 (1-2), 157-58
Race Relations Sunday, 250 (3), 296 (1b)
Raffles prohibited, 272
Ratio distribution of funds, 267 (7), 282 (4), 771, 823, 1624
Remittance of funds, 147, 149 (3), 267 (5-7), 268, 282 (4), 802, 804, 823, 1413 (2), 1624, 1646 (1), 1656 (4a)

Finance, local church, cont'd.:

Retired Ministers Day, 296 (3b), 1610 (6)
Special days, 215 (3), 250, 257 (5), 296
Special gifts, 149 (3), 267 (6), 745, 759-64, 810-11, 1312, 1409 (2)
Sustentation fund, 828
Treasurer, 162 (3), 209, 212, 262, 266-70, 759 (3), 760 (5), 802, 804, 823, 1413 (2), 1624 (3), 1646 (1), 1656 (4a)
Week of Dedication, 296 (1c), 760
Woman's Society of Christian Service, 282 (3-4), 1250
World service and conference benevolences, 142 (7), 147, 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5), 261, 268
World Service Sunday, 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5), 296 (1a)
World-wide Communion Sunday, 296 (1e), 763
For details see individual listings of above topics. See also Finance; Ministerial support; Property
Finance and Estimates, Committee on, 1249 (1), 1250
Finance and Field Service, Department of, 1235 (11), 1236, 2117
Finance committee:
Conference Board of Education, 1447
Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1434
Financial secretary:
Local church, 212, 262, 266-70
National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1404 (3)
Finland Conference, 1864 (3), 1879, 2103
Finland-Swedish Conference, 1864 (4), 1879, 2103
First Methodist Centennial Church, trustees of, 2167
Fiscal year, 737 (6), 738
Fisherman's Club, 222 (12)

INDEX

Florida Conference (C), 1771,
2102

Florida Conference (SE), 1742,
2102

Foochow Conference, 1861 (2),
1876, 2103

Foreign missions. See Department of Work in Foreign Fields; Division of World Missions

Foreign Work, Interdivision Committee on, 1199 (2),
1202

Forms:
Annual Conference, 630, 651, 662, 786. See also Forms: Pastor's report
Baptism, 127
Church school, 233 (4), 362 (15e)
Conference Board of Pensions, 1611 (7)
Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, 786
Conference treasurer, 786, 806
Council on World Service and Finance, 131, 141, 145 (4), 786, 806, 1120 (6)
Deeds, 164 (1, 2, 8), 166 (4), 167, 169, 171-72, 174, 180 (8), 188-89, 362 (7)
Director of Christian education, 1451 (2)
District superintendent's reports, 362 (10, 15e). See also Forms: Quarterly Conference
Membership records, 131-32, 352 (23)
Membership transfers, 121-22
Methodist Publishing House, 131, 141, 145 (4), 1120 (6), 1155
Minister of music, 1451 (2)
Pastor's report:
To Annual Conference, 131 (2), 148, 250, 352 (28), 362 (13), 630, 760 (6), 761 (3-5), 763, 764 (5), 829, 1226, 1413 (2)
To Quarterly Conference, 142 (2), 150 (3), 352 (22)
Quarterly Conference, 141, 145 (4), 154

Forms, cont'd:
Recognition of ministerial orders, 414-15, 431 (9)
Wesley Foundation, 1308
Withdrawal from ministry, 381
See also Certificate; Credentials; License

Foundation, Wesley. See Wesley Foundation

4-H Club, 244 (5), 292 (3)

Fourth-Sunday world service leaflets, 754

Frankfurt Area, 2103

Full connection, minister in, definition, 2100. See Admission of preachers; Annual Conference; Minister; Ministry

Fund:
Bishops' pensions, 774 (1)
Building, 164 (5-6), 1236 (1)
Chartered, 9 (5), 1607
Church extension, 1235-36, 1303 (4-5)
Conference Board of Temperance, 1532
Department of Finance and Field Service, 1236 (1-2)
Depository for, 207 (4), 737 (8-9), 807-8, 1433, 1611 (11)
Endowment, 362 (11), 1183-84, 1558 (3), 1605
Episcopal, 769-77. For details see Episcopal Fund
Fellowship of Suffering and Service, 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 750 (1-2), 763, 785, 805, 1313
General Administration, 765-68. For details see General Administration Fund
General Conference expense, 2012 (4)
Interdenominational Co-operation, 778. For details see Interdenominational Co-operation Fund
Investment, 164-65, 362 (11), 535, 581 (4), 737 (7, 9), 785, 1183, 1604 (2-3), 1610 (1), 1612
Jurisdictional Administration, 651 (12e), 1049
Lay Employees Pension, 1658-59

INDEX

Fund, cont'd:
Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 732, 735, 738, 785, 1312
Methodist Youth, 1285 (2), 1413 (2)
Minimum salary, 822-23, 826 (4)
Ministers Reserve Pension, 1642-57. For details see Ministers Reserve Pension Fund
Permanent, 709, 737 (7, 9), 745, 1183, 1184, 1235 (8), 1252 (2)
Student Loan, 250 (4), 1358
Sustentation, 828
Television Ministry, 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 750 (1), 764, 785, 805
Trust, 157 (3), 164-65, 362 (11), 535, 581 (4), 704-9, 711 (2-5), 729, 737 (13), 785, 1176 (7), 1183-84, 1252 (2), 1527 (2), 1557
Week of Dedication, 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 760, 762, 785, 805
World Service, 741-49. For details see World service

Fund-raising agent, 271, 1236
(1-2)

Funerals:
Duty of pastor, 352 (2)
Report of, 312, 352 (22b), 374
Rituals, 1918-19

G

Gambling, 272, 1522, 2022 (4)

General Administration Fund, 732, 765-68
Apportionment, 147, 651 (12c), 738, 800
Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 765, 1591
Bequests to, 785
Budget, 732, 765-68, 2013 (5)
Commission on Church Union, 2011 (1)
Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 765, 1588
Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas, 2012 (4)
Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System, 2013 (5)

General Administration Fund, cont'd:
Commission on Worship, 765, 1508 (4)
Committee on Family Life, 1417 (3)
Co-ordinating Council, 765, 1115 (6)
Council on World Service and Finance, 735, 737 (1, 12), 738, 765, 781-82, 785, 805
Definition, 732
File of Pastors and Church Officials, 765, 1120 (8)
General Conference expenses, 503, 602 (3), 605, 765, 2012
Judicial Council, 765
Legacies, 785
Remittance to central treasury, 805
Reports from agencies, 781-82
Statistical Office, 765, 1120 (5)
Transportation Office, 765, 1120 (7)

General agencies. See Agencies, administrative. For individual agencies see under Board; Commission; etc.; also list of agencies under Directory

General board. See Board; also Agencies, administrative. For individual general boards see Board of Education, etc.

General Board, National Council of Churches, 1596 (2),
2155

General church periodicals, 278
(8), 288, 352 (18, 22g, 27), 362 (15f), 689, 1132, 1144, 1492 (5), 1569 (7). See also Central Christian Advocate; New Christian Advocate; Together

General Committee on Family Life, 1417, 2133

General Conference, 4 (1), 5-10, 501-12
Acquisition of property by agencies, 1107, 1156
Affiliated autonomous Methodist churches, 602 (3-4)
Agencies of, 8 (8). See General agencies
Auditing and bonding of fiscal officers, 729. See also Auditing; Bond, surety

INDEX

General Conference, cont'd:
 Benevolences, 8 (8-9), 741-43, 747, 749. *See also* World service
 Boards, 8 (8), 502. *See* General board
Book of Worship for Church and Home, The, 1569 (4)
 Called session, 509
 Commission on Entertainment, 2108
 Committees, 503
 Composition, 5, 501-3
 Conference of Methodist Bishops, 427
 Date of, 6
 Definition, 2100
 Delegates, 5, 23-25, 501, 505-7, 509, 575, 602 (3), 605
 Effective date of legislation, 574-75
 Election of delegates, 23-25, 505
 Elections by, 703, 735, 750 (2), 758 (1), 901, 1111, 1116, 1568 (1), 1572, 1586, 1596-97, 1599, 2011 (1), 2012 (2), 2013 (2), 2018 (1)
 Expenses of, 503, 602 (3), 605, 765, 2012 (4)
 Fiscal responsibilities, 8 (9), 709, 732, 737 (1, 4-5), 741, 752, 754, 765-71, 774, 777-78, 1115 (6), 1120 (1), 1186, 1417 (3), 1539, 1549 (2), 1557, 1581 (5-6), 1591 (4a), 1596 (3), 1599
 Journal, 506, 530 (2), 918
Methodist Hymnal, The, 8 (6), 1569 (5)
 Methodist Publishing House, real estate and buildings, 1150-57
 Per diem expense, 503, 602 (3), 605
 Plan of organization, 508
 Powers and duties, 7-11, 13, 15-19, 22, 27-28, 30-33, 35-36, 42, 512, 541, 660, 1115
 Presiding officers, 8 (11), 431 (2)
 Privilege of the floor, 502-3, 602 (3), 605
 Program, 1569 (10)
 Quorum, 506
 Reports to, 530, 549, 589, 708, 737 (1, 4, 5, 13), 739, 742-43, 747, 749, 759 (4), 766, 770-71, 774 (2), 778, 782, 1111-12, 1115, 1120 (1),

General Conference, cont'd:
 1176 (9), 1370, 1595 (2), 2011, 2013 (1)
 Reserve delegates, 23, 505 (4)
 Resolutions of, 512, 2021-32
 Rules, 500-9, 512
 Secretary, 501, 560 (2), 1112, 1115, 1129, 2107
 Special session, 509
 Transfer of local churches to other jurisdictions, 8 (12), 26, 28, 532
 Translation of legislation, 575
 Worship materials, 8 (6), 9 (1), 1569 (3-5). *See also* *Methodist Hymnal*; *Ritual*; *Worship*
 Worship services, 1569 (10)

General Endowment Fund for Conference Claimants, 1608

General Minutes, 767, 918, 1101, 1120 (5), 1629 (1)

General Missionary Council, 1231

General Rules, 9 (4), 91-98, 345 (6), 352 (12)

General secretary, 432 (4), 502, 741, 750 (2), 783 (2a), 1065, 1103, 1595 (1)
 Board of Evangelism, 1418, 1471, 1536, 2136
 Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1554 (2), 1555 (2), 2142
 Board of Lay Activities, 1494, 1536, 2137
 Board of Pensions, 1603, 2143
 Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1548, 2141
 Board of Temperance, 1416, 1525 (1), 1526, 2139
 Board of World Peace, 1540, 2140
 Commission on Camp Activities, 2146
 Commission on Chaplains, 2145
 Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, 751-52, 758 (1), 1579, 1595 (1), 2148
 Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, 1579, 1587, 2151
 Council on World Service and Finance, 1117, 1595 (2), 2111. *See also* Treasurer
 Division of Educational Institutions, 1286, 1336, 2127

INDEX

General secretary, cont'd:
 Division of National Missions, 1212, 2117
 Division of the Local Church, 1336, 2130
 Division of World Missions, 1179, 1201, 2116
 Editorial Division, 1336, 1422, 2134
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 758 (1), 1269, 1280, 1581 (2), 2120
 Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 758 (1), 2125
 Quadrennial Commission on Christian Higher Education, 2018 (1), 2161
 Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 764 (1), 1579, 2150
See further under names of above agencies

General superintendent. See Bishop

Genesee Conference, 1719, 2102

Geneva Area, 2103

Georgia Conference, 1772, 2102

Germany Central Conference, 1877, 2103, *page 513*

Gifts. See Bequests; *Special gifts*

Golden Cross Enrollment Sunday, 296 (3a), 651 (16), 1559 (1)

Golden Cross Society, 278 (9), 1558 (4), 1559

Goodwill Industries, Department of, 432 (4), 1215, 1232, 2117

Government, obedience to civil, 87, 576-77

Governmental agencies, cooperation with, 1231 (2)

Ground breaking for church, ritual, 1931

Group ministry, 362 (15), 2030

Guarantees, personal, for church debts, 157 (1), 166 (3)

Gujarat Conference, 1871 (4), 1882, 2103

H

Hawaii Mission, 1213, 1850, 2102

Healing Ministry of Jesus (resolution), 2031

Health certificate (for admission to Annual Conference), 322 (4), 341, 411

Higher Education:
 Commission on Christian, 2014, 2018 (1, 3a), 2161
 Department of Secondary and, 1351 (3), 1353, 2127
 Quadrennial emphasis, 2018

Hingwa Conference, 1861, (3), 1876, 2103

Historical Societies:
 Annual Conference, 663, 1591 (1a)
 Association of Methodist, 1591-93, 2152
 International Methodist, 1591 (1a, 2a)
 Jurisdictional, 1591 (1a), 1592

Historical statement, pages 3-6

History, Committee on Records and, 145 (4), 689

Holston Conference, 1743, 2102

Holy Communion. See Lord's Supper

Home:
 Farm and, Committee, 145 (11)
 Fields, Department of Work in, 1247, 2118. *For details see* Department of Work in Home Fields
 Fields, Interdivision Committee on Work in, 1239
 For aged, children, or youth, 278 (9), 362 (15d), 432 (4-5), 689 (8), 1551, 1554 (1), 1556, 1558-66, 2026 (1). *See*

Home, cont'd:
 also Board of Hospitals and Homes; Institutions
 Missions, Section of, 1214-33, 2117. *For details see* Section of Home Missions
 Ritual for dedication of, 1939
The Christian, 2021 (2)
See also Family

Hong Kong Area, 2103

Hong Kong Mission, 1862 (2), 1876, 2005 (5), 2007 (3), 2103

Honoraria, bishop's acceptance of, 773

Honorary steward, 211

Hospital:
 Appeal for funds, special, 810-11. *See also* Golden Cross
 Appointment to serve in, episcopal, 432 (4-5)
 Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1551-67, 2142. *For details see* Board of Hospitals and Homes (general); Conference Board of Hospitals and Homes; Jurisdictional Board of Hospitals and Homes
 Chaplain, 432 (4), 1571. *See also* Chaplain
 Committee on Hospitals and Homes (local church), 278 (9)
 District superintendent's duty, 362 (15d), 689 (3)
 Golden Cross, 278 (9), 296 (3a), 651 (16), 1558 (4), 1559
 Racial policies, 2026 (1)
 Ritual for dedication of, 1937
See also Institutions

Housing project, chaplain in, 432 (4)

Houston - San Antonio Area, 2102

Hungary Conference, 1864 (5), 1875, 2103

Hyderabad Area, 2103

Hyderabad Conference, 1871 (5), 1882, 2103

Hymnal, The Methodist, 8 (6), 1569 (5)

I

Idaho Conference, 1843, 2008 (1), 2102

Ill, visitation of, 215 (5). *See also* Visitation

Illinois Area, 2102

Illinois Conference, 1794, 2102

Inactive church member, 125, 220

Incorporation:
 Annual Conference, 625, 651 (2), 711, 807
 Board of Education, 1238-30
 Board of Evangelism, 1465
 Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1552
 Board of Lay Activities, 1491
 Board of Missions, 1167-68
 Board of Pensions, 1601, 1610
 Board of Publication, 1126-28
 Board of Temperance, 1521
 Central Conference executive committee, 530
 Conference Board of Education, 1442
 Council on World Service and Finance, 1116
 Division of National Missions, 1167, 1209
 Division of World Missions, 1167, 1194
 Local church, 155 (8), 156, 157 (1), 162 (3), 169-70, 172, 176-78
 Local laws, 156, 176, 625, 730. *See also* Laws, local
 Methodist Publishing House, The, 1126-28
 Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1531
 Trustees:
 Annual Conference, 711
 Local church. *See* Incorporation: Local church
 The Methodist Church, 703
 Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1167, 1240 (2)

India:
 Annual Conferences, etc., 1871-72
 Areas, episcopal, 2103

India, cont'd:
 Central Conference, 1882
 Church union in, 2011 (2)

Indian Mission, 1833, 2102

Indiana Area, 2102

Indiana Conference, 1795, 2102

Indulgence, self, 95, 306 (5), 322 (5)

Indus River Conference, 1871 (6), 1882, 2005 (4), 2103

Industrial schools, 1220

Industry, chaplain in, 432 (4), 1571. *See also* Chaplain

Infants. See Children

Information, Methodist. See Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information

In-service training, director of, 1372 (3-4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2041 (1), 2127. *See also* Courses of Study; Department of Ministerial Education

Insignia, Christian, 188 (1)

Institutions:
 Alienation, 533
 Appeals for funds, 743, 748, 810-11
 Auditing and bonding of fiscal officers, 729
 Chaplains, 432 (4), 1571. *See also* Chaplain
 Educational. *See* Educational institutions
 Funds of, 711 (2), 729, 804, 807-8
 Hospitals and homes. *See* Hospital; Home
 Overseas, 1202 (4)
 Philanthropic, 1551. *See also* Hospital; Home
 Racial policies, 2026 (1)
 Trustees, 728

Insurance, 164 (7), 188 (1), 807

Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and Publication, 1576-79, 2147

Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations, 1516-19, 2138

Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1160-63, 2114

Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 1415, 2132
 Annual Conference commission, 651 (4g, 14d), 670, 675-77, 1254 (3)
 Composition, 1415 (2)
 Co-operation with other agencies, 1189, 1372 (4), 1564
 Executive committee, 1415 (3)
 Executive secretary, 1252 (3), 1404 (2), 1415 (4), 1595 (1), 2132
 Expenses, 1415 (5)
 Local-church committee, 145 (9)
 Philosophy of Christian vocation, 145 (9), 352 (20), 676, 1415 (1), 2020 (III B9)
 Recruitment for church vocations, 145 (9), 148 (1-2), 149 (1), 352 (20), 362 (15g), 670, 676, 1189, 1252 (4a), 1364, 1372 (4), 1375, 1415 (1), 1564

Interboard Committee on Ministry to Neglected Areas, 1289, 2124

Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1286-88, 2122
 Composition, 1286
 Curriculum Committee, 1287, 1426 (2). *See also* Curriculum Committee
 Duties, 1287
 Executive secretary, 1288, 1426 (2), 1595 (1), 2122
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, relation to, 1274, 1286, 1288
 Meetings, 1287
 Methodist Youth Fund, 1413 (2-3)
 Young women; girls; children, 1249 (3)

Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230, 2123
 Annual Conference commission, 1229 (2), 1231

- Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, cont'd:**
Composition, 1230 (1-2)
Department of Town and Country Work, 1215, 1229-31, 2117
Duties, 1230 (3)
Interdenominational co-operation, 1230 (3)
National Conference on Town and Country Work, 1229 (7), 1230 (3b)
Organization, 1231 (4)
- Interboard Council, 679**
- Interboard staff committees,**
1162, 1247 (3), 1518, 1567 (1), 1578
- Interboard youth staff, 1405 (2)**
- Interconference Commission on Student Religious Work, 1370, 1448**
- Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture, 1569 (12)**
- Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, 651 (12d), 732, 735, 737 (1, 12), 738, 765, 778, 785, 800, 805, 1581 (6), 1590-97**
- Interdenominational relations:**
Affiliated autonomous churches, 46, 427, 600-605, 1205, 1207, 1885, 2005 (3), 2011 (2a), 2012 (2), 2199
American Bible Society, 278 (8), 432 (4), 689 (6), 1581 (2), 1595 (1), 1598, 2157
Annual Conference, 1438
Central Conference, 556, 578, 579
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 46 (f), 250 (3), 1290
Church school, 248 (4)
Commission on Church Union, 2011, 2153
Commission on Worship, 1569 (12)
Committee on Co-operation (local church), 145 (5)
Expenses, 765, 1581 (6), 1598-99, 2011. *See also* Interdenominational Co-operation Fund
Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230 (3)
- Interdenominational relations, cont'd:**
Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1438
Local church, 145 (5), 189, 222 (2), 248 (4), 257 (3), 276, 2030
Ministerial education, 1372 (4)
Ministers from other churches, admission of, 411-15, 635, 651 (23-24), 671, 1630 (8)
Mission fields, 608
Missionary literature, 1271
National Council of Churches, 778, 1372 (4), 1493, 1569 (12), 1581 (4d, 6), 1596, 2155, page 278
Property of local church, 189, 2030
Relief agencies, 1312 (4)
Religion in American Life, 1599, 2158
Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1581 (4d, 6)
Transfer of membership, 111, 122-23
Trustees of institutions, 728
United Christian Youth Movement, 1460 (1)
World Council of Churches, 778, 1597, 2156, page 278
World Federation of Methodist Women, 568, 1249 (1), 2032
World Methodist Council, 46 (f), 1591 (1b, 2a), 2154
- Interdivision Committee on Foreign Work, 1199 (2), 1202, 1245 (2)**
- Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields, 1239, 1247 (2)**
- International Methodist Historical Society, 1591 (1a, 2a)**
- International Peace, World Order and (resolution), 2024**
- Introductory studies for the ministry, 318, 325 (2), 327, 393 (3), 1374 (1), 2041 (6), 2044**
- Investigation. See** Committee of Investigation; Judicial administration: Investigation

- Investments, 164-65, 362 (11), 535, 581 (4), 705, 711 (2), 737 (7, 9), 785, 1183, 1604 (2-3), 1610 (1), 1612**
- Iowa Area, 2102**
- Iowa-Des Moines Conference, 1796, 2102**
- Itinerancy, 821. See also** Traveling preacher
- Itinerants, 827 (1-2)**
- J**
- Jackson Area, 2102**
- Jacksonville Area, 2102**
- Japan, Church of Christ in, 601, 605, 1884-85, 2011 (2a)**
- Joint Commission on Co-operation and Counsel (Board of Missions and Christian Methodist Episcopal Church), 1290**
- Joint Committee on Architecture, 1414**
- Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1283-85, 2121**
- Joint Committee on Materials for Training for Church Membership, 1418**
- Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel, 1189-90, 1241, 1252 (1, 3, 4a, 12), 1254 (4b), 2115**
- Joint Committee on Temperance Education, 1416**
- Joint-Contributory Annuity Plan, 1023 (6)**
- Joint Distributing Committee, 1609 (1-2)**
- Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1178-80, 1268-77, 2120**
Advance specials, 762 (4-5). *See also* Advance
Annual Conference program, 1272, 1299
Authorization, 1178-80
- Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, cont'd:**
District Missionary Institute, 1300
Duties, 1249 (2), 1269, 1271-77
Editors, 1180 (1), 1271, 1276 (2), 2120
Elections, 1268-69
General Missionary Council, 1281 (1)
General secretaries, 1179, 1249 (2), 1581 (2), 2120
General Section, 1276 (1)
Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1274, 1286-88. *For details see* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education
Jurisdictional Missionary Council, 1281 (2)
Literature, 257 (2), 1271, 1276
Meetings, 1270
Membership, 1268, 2120
Nominations by, 1175, 1176 (6), 1179 (1), 1180, 1269
Organization, 1268-69, 2120
President, 1174, 1269, 2120
Recording secretary, 1269, 2120
Representatives on other agencies, 758 (1), 1404 (2), 1581 (2), 1595 (1)
Staff, 1179-81, 1249 (2), 1269, 2120
Support, 1277
Treasurer, 1269, 2120
Vacancies, 1269
Vice-president, 1269, 2120
Week of Prayer, 1272
Woman's Section, 1249 (1-2), 1269, 1276 (2)
- Journal:**
Annual Conference. *See below*
Journal, conference
Central Conference, 549, 567
General Conference, 506, 530 (2), 918
Judicial procedure, 918, 1035
Jurisdictional Conference, 521, 530
- Journal, conference, 656-60, 1658 (1b)**
Bishop's responsibility to, 431 (9)
Central Conference authority over, 567
Content and arrangement, 658, 1223
Directors of Christian education in, 1451 (2)

Journal, Conference, cont'd:

- Financial reports, 812, 829-30, 1612 (7)
 Jurisdictional Conference authority over, 529
 Lay leaders' names and addresses in, 362 (10)
 Local preachers' names and addresses in, 362 (4)
 Ministers of music in, 1451 (2)
 Ministers' service records required in, 1029 (3)
 Report of conference claimants in, 1631 (6)
 Reports of agencies, 786, 1296 (1), 1618 (4, 9)
 Reports of deaconesses, 1254 (4c, 7)

Judgment, error in, 948**Judicial administration, 901-1065**

- Annual Conference authority, 22, 636, 914, 936-37, 940-41, 944, 1024, 1026, 1051
 Appeals, 9 (3), 15 (6), 19 (6), 43, 904-8, 1025-60.
For details see Appeal, judicial
 Approved supply pastor, 945, 957-65
 Bishop:
 Appeal of, 1041-43
 Appeal from ruling of, 43 (2-3), 908
 Central Conference, 930
 Decisions on questions of law, 40, 43, 362 (14), 904, 908-9, 1034, 1036
 Presiding over trials, 935, 937.
See also Trial
 Suspension of, 927-28, 950-51
 Trial of, 921-30, 947
 Withdrawal under complaint, 952
 Central Conference, 547, 570, 581 (4)
 Charges, 921, 969, 1001-5. *For details see Trial: Charges*
 Church member, 969-77, 983, 1056-60
 Committee of Investigation, 651 (4d, 20), 923, 931-34, 936, 939, 957-58, 972
 Committee on Appeals, 15 (6), 19 (6), 913, 935, 937. *See also Court: Appellate*
 Complaints, 636, 947, 952, 964, 981-83

Judicial administration, cont'd:

- Counsel, 1006-7
 Court:
 Appellate, 1026-32, 1045-49, 1057-60. *See also Committee on Appeals*
 Trial, 924-27, 935, 937, 959, 966, 973-74, 1057. *See also Trial*
 Credentials, deprivation and restoration of, 936, 991-96
 Deaconess, 966-68, 982, 1053-54
 Decisions on questions of law, 40, 43-44, 362 (14), 903-18, 1033-34, 2001-2. *For details see Decisions on questions of law*
 Declaratory decisions (Judicial Council), 904 (2), 914-17
 Deposition of bishop, 927-28
 Deposition of traveling preacher, 935, 937
 Digests of Judicial Council decisions, 2002
 District superintendent:
 Decisions on questions of law, 362 (14), 1034, 1036 (1)
 Investigation by. *See Judicial administration: Investigation*
 Investigation of, 933-34
 Presiding over trials, 959, 973. *See also Trial*
 Episcopal decisions. *See Decisions on questions of law*
 Expulsion of:
 Approved supply pastor, 954
 Bishop, 927, 951-52
 Church member 983
 Deaconess, 982
 Local preacher, 981
 Traveling preacher, 937, 951-52
 General Conference authority, 8 (7), 9 (3)
 General directions, 1001-65
 Investigation of:
 Bishop, 923, 926, 930
 Church member, 972
 Deaconess, 966
 District superintendent, 933-34
 Local preacher, 957-58
 Nonresident member of Annual Conference, 939
 Traveling preacher, 932-34, 936, 940
 Judicial Council. *See Judicial Council*

Judicial administration, cont'd:

- Local preacher, 308, 945, 957-65, 981, 994-96, 1051-52
 Maladministration, 356, 947-49
 New trial, 975
 Notices, 1008-9
 Offenses of:
 Bishop, 921
 Church member, 969-71
 Deaconess, 966-68
 Preachers, local or traveling, 921, 942-44, 962-64
 Penalties:
 Bishop, 925, 927-28
 Church member, 974
 Deaconess, 966
 Local preacher, 961-64, 994
 Traveling preacher, 377-79, 935, 937-38, 991-93
 Powers of dismissal, 1065
 Preacher on trial. *See Traveling preacher*
 Provisional Annual Conference, 946, 965
 Questions of law. *See Decisions on questions of law*
 Records, 1022-24, 1035
 Bishop, 925
 Local preacher, 959
 Traveling preacher, 935, 937, 941, 1048
 Restrictive Rule, 9 (3)
 Suspension of bishop, 927-28
 Suspension of traveling preacher, 934, 937, 940
 Testimony, 1019-21
 Traveling preacher, 931-44, 950-51, 1045-49
 Trials, 9 (3), 570, 630, 921-83, 1010-18. *For details see Trial*
 Witnesses, 1017, 1020

Judicial Council, 40, 42-44,

- 901-18, 2001-2, 2106
 Absence from, 901 (3)
 Annual Conference, appeal of, 907, 914
 Appeals to 43, 525, 535, 547, 904-8, 910, 913-17, 1033-36, 1041-43
 Central Conference, 43 (1, 4), 547, 905-7, 914, 930, 1042-43
 Composition, 901, 1104
 Constitutionality, 43-44, 903-5
 Decisions, 43-44, 903-18, 1033-34, 2001-2. *For details see Decisions on questions of law*
 Declaratory decisions, 904 (2), 914-17

Judicial Council, cont'd:

- Definition, 2100
 Digests of decisions, 2002
 Election of, 901 (1)
 Expenses of, 765
 Finality of decisions, 44, 912
 Jurisdictional Conference, 43 (1, 4), 525, 535, 905-7, 913-14, 927, 1041, 1043
 Meetings, 903
 Membership, 42, 901, 2106
 Organization, 903, 2001
 Powers and duties, 43, 903-18
 Publication of decisions, 918, 2002
 Quorum, 903
 Restriction on members, 902
 Rules of practice and procedure, 2001
 Vacancies, 901 (3)
See also Judicial administration

Jurisdiction:

- See Jurisdictional*
 Agencies. *See Jurisdictional Conference: Agencies. For individual agencies see Jurisdiction*
 Deaconess Association; Jurisdictional Board of Education; etc.
 Assignment of bishops, 2102
 Boundaries, 8 (12), 26, 28, 532
 Central, 26, 1766-83, 2009
 College of Bishops, officers, 2105
 Definition, 2100
 Maps, pages 494-95
 North Central, 26, 1792-1809
 Northeastern, 26, 1714-35
 Number of church members, 439, 528, 1101
 South Central, 26, 1815-33
 Southeastern, 26, 1740-57
 Study of system, 2013
 Transfer of local churches, 26 (note), 28, 532, 651 (18c), 1768 (note), 1773 (note), 2009
 Western, 26, 1841-51
See also Jurisdictional Conference; and under names of jurisdictions

Jurisdiction Deaconess Association, 1252 (3), 1252 (4c), 1253, 1254 (7), 1255 (3)**Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1255, 1250, 1276 (2), 1291-94**

Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, *cont'd*:
 Amendments to constitution, 1255 (7)
 Authority, 1255 (2)
 Constitution, 1255
 Elections, 1255 (4-5)
 Meetings, 1253 (3), 1255 (6)
 Membership, 1255 (3), 1256 (3, 6)
 Nominations by, 1172 (2)
 President, 1253 (3), 1253 (2c), 1255 (4), 1291
 Recording secretary, 1255 (4)
 Treasurer, 1255 (4)
 Vice-president, 1255 (4)

Jurisdictional Administration Fund, 651 (12e), 1049

Jurisdictional Board of Education, 362 (15e), 1400, 1407-8, 1428-39
 Assemblies, 1429
 Budget, 1434
 Church-school extension, 1428, 1436
 Colleges, 1429, 1436
 Committee on Educational Institutions, 1435 (1)
 Committee on the Local Church, 1435 (2)
 Convener, 1431
 Co-operation with other agencies, 1438
 Educational institutions, 1429
 Elections, 1432, 1434-35
 Executive committee, 1434
 Executive secretaries, 1430, 1432, 1435, 1436-37
 Finance committee, 1434
 Interdenominational relations, 1438
 Membership, 1430
 Methodist Conference on Christian Education, 1438
 Nominating committee, 1434-35
 Organization, 1431
 President, 1432-34
 Quorum, 1432
 Recording secretary, 1432
 Reports to, 1434, 1436, 1437, 1449
 Staff, 1436
 Student religious work, 1429
 Support, 1439
 Training schools, 1429
 Treasurer, 1432-33
 Vice-president, 1432
 Wesley Foundations, 1429
 Youth members, 1430

Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism, 1476-77

Jurisdictional Board of Hospitals and Homes, 278 (9), 1560

Jurisdictional Board of Lay Activities, 286, 1498-1502

Jurisdictional Board of Missions, 256, 1291-94
 Budget, 1294
 Church extension, 1213
 Department of Town and Country Work, 1229 (2)
 Elections, 1292
 Jurisdictional Missionary Council, 1281 (2)
 Membership in Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1255 (3)
 Secretary, 1292

Jurisdictional Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1550 (1)

Jurisdictional Board of Temperance, 1529-31
 Commitment Day, 1528
 Executive committee, 1530
 Membership, 1529
 Officers, 1530
 Quorum, 1530
 Secretary, 1531

Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals, 15 (6), 913, 935, 937. *See also* Jurisdictional Court of Appeals

Jurisdictional Committee on Educational Institutions, 1435 (1)

Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy, 526, 926

Jurisdictional Committee on the Local Church, 1435 (2)

Jurisdictional Committee on World Peace, 278 (7), 1541

Jurisdictional Conference, 4 (2), 11-15, 26, 516-35, 2100
 Agencies, 15 (3), 533. *For individual agencies see* Jurisdiction Deaconess Association

Jurisdictional Conference, *cont'd*:
 tion; Jurisdictional Board of Education; etc.
 Appeals, 15 (6), 913, 935, 937, 1041-49
 Apportionments, 795, 1439
 Authority over Annual Conference, 28, 29, 666
 Bishops:
 Amenability, 435-36, 525, 775-76, 922
 Assignments, 37-38, 439-40, 526, 2005, 2102
 College of. *See* College of Bishops
 Election, 8 (10), 15 (2), 35, 422-23
 Number of, 439
 Retired, 435-37, 775-76
 Trial, 910, 921-30, 950-52, 1041-43
 Called session, 523
 Central, 26, 2005 (1), *See also* Central Jurisdiction
 Committee on Education, 1430
 Committee on Episcopacy, 526, 926
 Composition, 11, 13, 517
 Debts, 533
 Definition, 2100
 Delegates, 7, 23-25, 505 (4), 517-19, 526
 Elections by, 8 (10), 15 (2), 35, 422-23, 528, 750 (2), 1101, 1129, 1172, 1326, 1468, 1491, 1498, 1500, 1523, 1529, 1538, 1546, 1550 (1), 1553, 1602 (1)
 Expenses, 522, 530 (2)
 Journal, 521, 530
 Meetings, 14, 520, 523
 Missionary bishop, 446 (2)
 Nominating committee, 1546
 North Central, 26. *See also* North Central Jurisdiction
 Northeastern, 26, 2005 (2). *See also* Northeastern Jurisdiction
 Number of bishops in, 439
 Officers of, 2109
 Organization, 521
 Powers and duties, 10 (3), 15, 29, 331, 422-23, 521-30
 Presiding officers, 41, 431 (2), 437 (1), 524, 530 (1)
 Program of session, 1437
 Property, 533-35
 Provisional Annual Conference, 606
 Quorum, 521
 Records, 529-30

Jurisdictional Conference, *cont'd*:
 Reports to, 526, 529, 656, 1176 (9)
 Representation on general agencies, 523, 1101, 1105. *See also* Jurisdictional Conference:
 Elections by
 Reserve delegates, 518
 Retired bishops, 435-37, 775-76
 Rules, 521
 Secretary, 530 (1), 1024
 Special days set by, 296 (3)
 Sessions, special, 523
 South Central, 26, 2005 (3). *See also* South Central Jurisdiction
 Southeastern, 26. *See also* Southeastern Jurisdiction
 Western, 26. *See also* Western Jurisdiction

Jurisdictional Court of Appeals, 1045-49. *See also* Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals

Jurisdictional Historical Society, 1591 (1a), 1592

Jurisdictional Missionary Council, 1281 (2)

Jurisdictional System, Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning, 2013, 2160

Jurisdictional Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1582

Juvenile court cases, 1220

K

Kalgan Conference, 1862 (1), 1876, 2003 (2), 2103

Kansas Area, 2102

Kansas Conference, 1818, 2102

Kentucky Conference, 1744, 2102

Kiangsi Conference, 1861 (4), 1876, 2103

Kindergartens, 243, 245, 1220

Korea, Methodist Church of, 601-2, 1884-85

INDEX

- L**
- Labor groups, chaplains to**, 432 (4)
- Larger parish**, 362 (15), 2030
- Latin America:**
Annual Conferences, etc., 1865-66
Area, episcopal, 2103
Central Conference, 1878, 1885, 2004 (3), 2006 (1), 2103
Map of The Methodist Church, page 614
- Latvia**, 1804 (1)
- Laws, local**, 156-58, 165-66, 167, 169-70, 176, 180, 186-87, 189, 196, 318 (1), 362 (7), 535, 572, 577, 580-81, 625, 716 (2), 730, 1235 (9), 1328-29, 1442, 1467, 1561 (2)
- Lay Activities, Board of**, 1490-1515. *For details see* Board of Lay Activities (general); Conference Board of Lay Activities; District Board of Lay Activities; Jurisdictional Board of Lay Activities
- Lay delegates**, 7, 23, 25
Central Conference, 17, 542-43
General Conference, 5, 501, 505, 507
Jurisdictional Conference, 13, 505 (4), 517-19, 526
See also Lay member of Annual Conference
- Lay Employees Pension Fund**, 1658-59
- Lay leader:**
Church, 143 (2), 147, 196, 209, 215 (4), 219, 221 (1), 232, 244 (8), 256, 262, 274, 276, 288, 291, 687, 752, 969-71, 1508
Conference, 651 (17), 752, 755 (2), 1120, (8), 1291, 1452, 1491, 1493, 1503-7, 1583 (2)
District, 651 (17c), 687, 1503, 1508-10
- Lay member of Annual Conference**, 21-23, 25, 143 (4), 209, 505 (2), 543, 627, 649, 687. *See also* Lay delegates
- Lay missionary**, 623, 1189-92. *See also* Missionary
- Lay representatives.** *See* Lay delegates; Lay member of Annual Conference
- Lay speaker**, 142 (5), 146 (3), 352 (22), 353, 363, 573
- Laying cornerstone of church, ritual for**, 1932
- Layman (definition)**, 2100
- Layman's Day**, 1493
- Leadership education**, 243, 1396-98, 1436, 1442
- Leaflets, fourth-Sunday world service**, 754
- Leave of absence:**
Deaconess, 1252 (10)
Minister, 364
- Lectures, bishop's**, 773
- Legacies.** *See* Bequests; Devises
- Legal counsel**, 1006-7, 1120 (4)
- Lent**, 760 (1)
- Letter of notification**, 119, 121-22, 123
- Lexington Conference**, 1773, 2102
- Liability, legal**, 157 (1), 166 (3), 533, 581 (4), 634, 1558 (6)
- Liberia Conference**, 1860 (3), 1884, 2005 (1), 2103
- License to preach**, 304-7, 362 (4), 690, 695 (2)
Course of study for, 306 (4), 1374 (1), 2041 (5), 2043
Granting of, 304, 306, 362 (4), 690, 695 (2), 1206 (3), 1238 (4)
Issuance of, 362 (4)
Recommendation, 142 (5), 146 (1)
Renewal, 304, 307, 310, 314, 320, 328, 690, 695 (2), 2041 (10), 2044-48
Requirement of, 305, 322 (1), 1380 (1)

INDEX

- License to preach, cont'd:**
Ritual, 1923
Surrender of, 311, 961
See also Credentials; Local preacher
- Licensing of deaconesses**, 1252 (1), 1254 (4d)
- Liens on annuities**, 1634
- Life service in church vocations**, 145 (9), 146 (1-2), 149 (1), 352 (20), 362 (15a), 670, 676, 1189, 1252 (4a), 1304, 1372 (4), 1375, 1415 (1), 1504. *See also* Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations
- Limitations on appointment of preachers**, 315 (1), 317, 353, 362 (3), 363, 365, 377-78, 432 (1, 3, 5-8), 437 (1)
- Literature**, 250 (5), 278 (8), 352 (18), 362, (15f)
Church-school, 233 (3), 278 (8), 352 (18), 362 (15e), 1150, 1287, 1428-29, 1436, 1441, 2027. *See also* Publications: Church-school
Committee on Good, 278 (8)
Devotional, 221 (3), 222 (9-10), 1485, 2021 (2). *See also* Upper Room
Distribution of, 753 (2)
Evangelistic, 221 (3)
General church periodicals, 278 (3), 283, 352 (18, 22g, 27), 362 (15f), 639, 1144, 1492 (5), 1509 (7). *See also* Central Christian Advocate; New Christian Advocate; Together
Headquarters, 2118
Historical, 1591 (4a)
Hospitals and homes, 1558 (4)
Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1271
Methodist Publishing House, The, 1150. *See also* Methodist Publishing House
Missionary, 257 (1-2), 1271, 1276
Promotional, 753 (1-3)
Salacious, 1522
Stewardship, 753 (4)
Temperance, 1522
Tidings, 2136
Tracts, distribution of, 432 (5)
- Literature, cont'd:**
World service leaflets, 754
See also Editor; Periodicals; Publications
- Lithuania**, 1864 (1)
- Little Rock Conference**, 1819, 2102
- Loan Fund, Student**, 250 (4), 1358, 2127
- Local church, 101-296**
Abandoned or discontinued, 188
Admission into, 107-12
Affiliate membership, 112
Board of Trustees, 157-90, 207. *For details see* Trustees
Building, 157-58, 164-65, 180, 233 (6h), 722-24, 1235-37, 1401 (1), 1931-34
Certificate of organization, 641
Church Conference, 32-33, 143-45, 196-200
Church school, 232-51, 1396-98, 1401, 1403, 1407
Commission on Christian Social Relations, 219, 276, 1550 (3)
Commission on Education, 143 (6-9), 144, 209, 219, 231-51, 257 (2)
Commission on Membership and Evangelism, 125, 143 (6), 144, 219-22
Commission on Missions, 143 (6), 144, 209, 219, 256-57, 1308
Commission on Stewardship and Finance, 143 (6), 144, 209, 219, 261-72
Commission on Worship, 219, 274, 1509 (11)
Committee on Nominations, 145 (1), 278 (2)
Committees, 145, 278, 1590
Communion steward, 143 (11)
Dedication of, 181, 1933
Definition, 102-4, 2100
Director of stewardship, 263
Discontinuance, 126, 188 (1), 354, 651 (18c)
Division of the, 1396-1410, 2130
Divisional Committee on the, 1409 (2)
Educational program, 1429, 1441, 1448, 1450. *See also* Church school

Local church, cont'd:

Elections, 142 (3), 143-45, 155 (6-7), 157 (4), 160-61, 180, 183, 198, 208, 212, 233 (6b), 244, 278, 282 (5)
 Emphasis. *See below* Local Church Emphasis
 Episcopal visitation, 773
 Evangelism in, 222 (2)
 Finance, 147-48, 261-72, 809, 821-30
 Incorporation, 155 (8), 157 (1), 162 (3), 169-70, 172, 176-78
 Interboard Commission on the, 1160-63
 Lay activities, 286-92, 1511-12
 Lay leader, 143 (2), 209, 219, 288
 Location and building, 155 (1), 168, 170, 180-81, 721-24
 Loyalty oaths, 2025
 Membership, 105-32, 149 (2), 155 (3-5), 267 (1)
 Membership and constituency records, 112, 118, 121-32, 278 (1)
 Merger, 186-87, 189, 651 (18b)
 Methodist Men, 291-92
 Methodist Youth Fellowship, 244 (4), 1403
 Officers, 112, 143-45, 155 (7), 198, 207-12
 Official Board, 142 (1), 144, 206-19, 261-68, 278, 286, 288-91
 Opening of, for worship (ritual), 1934
 Optional commissions, 274, 276
 Organizations, 165, 214, 222 (15), 233 (6a), 651 (18a)
 Organizing, 155, 173 (2), 222 (14), 641, 1930
 Parsonage, 145 (7), 150 (1), 141-52, 174 (2), 183-84
 Pastor, 104, 107-32, 138 (1), 145 (1-2), 148, 165, 207 (1), 219, 243 (2), 286
 Pastoral charge, definition, 104
 Policy, 145 (6)
 Preparatory members, 127-29, 132
 Program journal, 753 (3), 754
 Property, 151-54, 156-94, 354
 Quadrennial Committee on Goals, 651 (4v), 2017 (1)
 Quarterly Conference, 31-32, 104, 137-55, 157-58, 2100
 Relocation, 651 (18d)
 Remodeling, 180-81, 723

Local church, cont'd:

Stewards, 143-44, 155 (6-7), 207-11
 Stewardship, 257 (7), 262-63, 292 (2), 689 (7), 753 (4), 1492, 1512-14
 Superintendent, church-school, 143 (7), 209, 232-33, 246-49, 687
 Transfer to another jurisdiction, 26 (note), 28, 532, 651 (18c)
 Treasurer, 162 (3), 209, 212, 262, 266-70
 Trustees, 138 (3), 153 (3), 155 (7-8), 157-90, 207
 Woman's Society of Christian Service, 209, 281-82
 Young Adult Fellowship, 209, 234, 244 (1), 1397
 Youth Council, 138 (3), 153 (3), 209
For details see individual listings of above topics

Local Church Emphasis (quadrennial program):

Aim of program, 2017
 Conference Committee on Local-Church Goals, 651 (4v), 2017 (1)
 Emphases, 2017 (3)
 Goals, 2017 (2)
 Study and analysis, 2017 (1)

Local deacon, elder. *See* Local preacher: Orders

Local expense, 148, 150 (1), 173 (1), 184, 261, 266-68

Local-Church Goals, Quadrennial Committee on, 651 (4v), 2017 (1)

Local laws. *See* Laws, local

Local ministry. *See* Local preacher

Local preacher, 8 (2), 304-20
 Amenability, 308-9, 320, 690, 695, (2)
 Appointment of, 304 (3-4), 305, 309, 315 (2), 352 (9, 13), 362 (2-3), 431 (4), 432 (8)
 Approved supply pastor. *See* Approved supply pastor
 Call to preach, 301-3
 Central Conference, 573

Local preacher, cont'd:

Certificate of official standing and dismissal, 308-9
 Change of residence, 308-9
 Courses of study, 306-7, 312, 1372 (3), 1374, 2041 (3), 2043-48
 Credentials, 308, 311, 961, 964, 994-96
 Definition, 304, 2100
 Discontinuance, 308, 959, 961, 964
 District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, 306-7, 310, 312, 690, 695. *For details see* District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications
 District Conference membership, 687
 Duties, 312
 Evangelist, 353, 363
 From other churches, 411 (1)
 Judicial administration, 308, 945, 957-65, 981, 994-96, 1051-52
 License to preach, 304-7, 362 (4), 690, 695 (2). *For details see* License to preach
 Located minister, 310, 374-79. *For details see* Location of minister
 Orders, 304 (1)
 Deacon's, 391-92, 393 (4), 411 (1), 2100
 Elders, 401-2, 403 (4), 404-5, 411 (1), 2100
 Loss of credentials, 308, 311, 961, 964, 994-996
 Ritual, 1920-21
 Privileges and duties, 304
 Qualifications, 301-3, 306-7
 Quarterly Conference membership, 138 (2), 153 (2)
 Renewal of license, 146 (1), 304, 307
 Report of, 312
 Ritual for licensing to preach, 1923
 Supervision of, 352 (9, 13), 362 (2)
 Student, pretheological, 307 (1)
 Termination, 304, 311, 994
 Transfer, 308-9
 Trial of, 945, 957-65, 981, 1051-52
 Withdrawal under complaints or charges, 981
Location of minister, 310, 362 (3), 374-79, 412, 432 (8),

Location of minister, cont'd:
 636-37, 651 (38), 1630 (15), 2100

Lord's Supper:

Authority to administer, 318, 329, 392, 402
 Communion steward, 143 (11)
 Fellowship of Suffering and Service offerings, 763
 Pastor's duty, 352 (2)
 Ritual for, 1908-9
 Significance of, 76, 78
 World-wide Communion Sunday, 296 (1e), 763

Los Angeles Area, 2102

Lotteries, 272, 1522, 2022 (4)

Louisiana Conference (C), 1774, 2102

Louisiana Conference (SC), 1820, 2102

Louisville Area, 2102

Louisville Conference, 1745, 2102

Love feasts, 352 (8)

Loyalty oaths, 2025

Lucknow Area, 2103

Lucknow Conference, 1871 (7), 1882, 2103

M

Madhya Pradesh Conference, 1871 (8), 1882, 2103

Maine Conference, 1720, 2102

Maladministration, 356, 947-49

Malaya Conference, 1869 (2), 1881, 2103

Malaysia Chinese Conference, 1869 (3), 1881, 2103

Manila Area, 2103

Manuals:

Church-school, 244 (2), 248 (1), 251
 Worship, 1569 (2)

Manuscripts for publication, 1143**Maps:**

- Africa, page 509
 Asia, page 517
 Europe and North Africa, page 513
 Latin America, page 514
 United States, pages 494-95

Marriage:

- Authority to solemnize, 318, 329, 352 (2), 392, 402
 Counseling, 352 (6), 355-56, 2020 (III A), 2021 (3ab)
 Divorce, 356, 2020 (III A), 2021 (3d)
 Mixed, 352 (6), 2021 (3b)
 Planned parenthood, 2021 (3c)
 Register of, 352 (24)
 Report of, 312, 365, 370
 Resolution, 2021
 Ritual for, 1917
 Study groups, 233 (6e), 2021 (3a)

Materials for Training for Church Membership, Joint Committee on, 1418**Membership:**

- Agencies, administrative, 1101-4, 1111, 2110-67. *See also under individual agencies*
 Annual Conference. *See* Annual Conference: Membership
 Church. *See below* Membership, church
 Church school, 233 (4), 243, 1396
 Commission on. *See* Commission on Membership and Evangelism
 Commissions, local church, 143 (6), 144, 219, 221 (1), 232, 256, 262, 274, 276
 Conferences: General, Jurisdictional, Central, District. *See* Delegates
 Cultivation superintendent (church school), 143 (8), 232, 246 (1)
 Methodist Youth Fellowship, 244 (4), 1403
 Ministerial. *See* Ministry
 Official Board, 207
 Quarterly Conference, 138, 153
 Rolls. *See* Membership, church
 Secretary, 118, 212

Membership, cont'd:

Woman's Society of Christian Service, 232 (3)

Membership, church, 105-32, 1396

- Absentee, 119-20, 125
 Addresses of church members, 352 (26)
 Admission into, 107-12, 128-29. *For details see* Reception into church membership
 Affiliate, 112, 132, 1916
 Assimilating new members, 149 (2), 222 (15)
 Baptism, 102, 107, 111, 127-28, 1910-12. *See also* Baptism
 Basis of jurisdictional elections, 439, 528, 1101
 Central Conference authority, 565
 Certificate of:
 Membership, 352 (26), 950, 992
 Transfer, 110-11, 121-22, 128, 155 (3), 352 (4)
 Church-school preparation for, 241, 1396. *See also* Membership, church: Training for
 Classes for, 129, 222 (13), 352 (22e). *See also* Membership, church: Training for
 Commission on Membership and Evangelism, 125, 143 (6), 144, 209, 219-22, 234, 256, 292 (1)
 Constituency roll, 128, 132, 352 (25)
 Definition, 105, 2100
 Discontinued local church, 126
 Essential for Quarterly Conference and Official Board membership, 138 (3), 153 (3), 209
 Expulsion from, 969-71, 974, 977, 983
 General Conference authority over, 8 (1)
 General Rules, 91-98
 Inactive, 125, 220, 222 (6)
 Instruction in. *See* Membership, church: Training for
 Joint Committee on Materials for Training for, 1418
 Judicial administration, 969-77, 983, 1056-60
 Local preacher, 304, 308-11
 New local church, 155 (3-5)
 Preparatory, 127-29, 132, 352 (23, 26), 1913

Membership, church, cont'd:

- Privileges and duties, 138 (3), 153 (3), 144, 196-97, 207, 221 (1), 267 (1), 278, 977
 Profession of faith, 105, 107-8, 111, 129, 149 (2), 155 (4), 352 (26)
 Racial policy, 2023 (1, 3)
 Reception into, 107-12, 128-29. *For details see* Reception into church membership
 Records, 112, 118, 121-32, 155 (5), 278 (1), 352 (22-28)
 Removal by Quarterly Conference, 125
 Residences of members, 352 (25)
 Restoral to, 124-25, 977, 1916
 Ritual for reception into, 1913-16
 Rolls, 112, 121-25, 127-29, 130-32, 155 (5), 222 (16), 278 (1)
 Statistics, 2199
 Supply pastor, 309
 Termination, 123-25, 974
 Training for, 107, 129, 222 (13), 241, 352 (4, 22e), 1396, 1418
 Transfer, 110-22, 126, 128, 155 (3), 222 (11), 352 (4, 22b, 23), 602 (1), 1916
 Vows, 102, 107-9, 111, 125, 1913-16
 Withdrawal, 123-24, 983

Memorial, ritual for dedication of, 1940**Memphis Conference, 1746, 2102****Men's councils, 1399****Men's Work, Committee on, 278 (10)****Men's work program, 278 (10), 291-92, 352 (7), 1511. *See also* Methodist Men****Mental health, tests for admission to Annual Conference, 322 (4), 341****Merger of local churches, 186-87, 189, 651 (18b)****Methodism Overseas, Commission. *See* Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas****Methodist Book Concern, 9 (5), 1126-27. *See also* Methodist Publishing House****Methodist Church, The:**

- Articles of Religion, 61-87. *See also* Articles of Religion
 Authority to speak for, 512
 Board of Trustees, 703-9, 737 (13), 2162-65
 Books and pamphlets about, 278 (8)
 Constitution, 1-44
 Doctrine, 9 (1), 61-87, 316 (2), 342, 344, 345 (8-10), 352 (4), 411, 921, 944, 951, 962
 Education about, 291 (2), 292 (7), 344, 352 (4), 1379
 Evidence that local church belongs to, 174 (3)
 Funds, 732. *For details see* Finance
 General Rules, 91-98
 History, pages 3-6, 1591 (1b)
 Membership, 102, 105. *See also* Membership, church
 Name, 2, 701, 1618 (8)
 Official pronouncements, 512, 2020-32
 Publisher, 1123. *See also* Publisher
 Resolutions, 2021-32
 Social Creed, 2020
 Statistics about, 2199
 Support, 731-32. *See also* Finance
 Trustees, 703-9, 737 (13), 2162-65

Methodist Church of Brazil, 601-2, 1885**Methodist Church of Korea, 601-2, 1885****Methodist Church of Mexico, 601-2, 1885****Methodist colleges, 149 (1), 432 (7), 669-70, 673, 689 (5), 728, 1233, 1390. *See also* College****Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 753 (1), 759-60, 763, 785, 805, 1102, 1311-15, 1595 (1), 2125****Methodist Bishops, Conference of, 427**

INDEX

Methodist Conference on Christian Education, 1400, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1438, 1455

Methodist Episcopal Church, trustees, 704, 2163

Methodist Episcopal Church, South, trustees, 704, 2164

Methodist hospitals and homes. See Board of Hospitals and Homes

Methodist Hymnal, The, 8 (6), 1569 (5)

Methodist Information. See Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information

Methodist Layman, The, 288, 292 (8), 753 (3), 2137

Methodist Men, 209, 221 (1), 232, 234, 291-92, 352 (7, 22), 1511

Methodist Protestant Church: Executive Committee, 2166 Trustees, 704, 2165

Methodist Publishing House, 375, 1121-57, 2113 Abingdon Press, 2113 Appropriation to conference claimants, 9 (5), 607, 1124-25, 1625 (1a) Audio-visual materials, 1425, 1581 (4c) Board of Publication, 1123-57, 2112. *For details see* Board of Publication Book editor, 1132-33, 1143, 1147, 1418, 1425-26, 1568 (1), 2113 *Central Christian Advocate, The*, 278 (8), 288, 1144 (3-5), 2113 Children's books, editor of, 2113 Church-school publications, 1132, 1143, 1145-53, 1421-26, 1428-29, 1441, 2134-35. See also Literature: Church-school Cokesbury Book Stores, 2113 College texts, editor of, 2113 Conference claimants, 9 (5), 607, 1124-25, 1625 (1a) Corporate names, 1126-28

Methodist Publishing House, cont'd: Curriculum materials, 1122, 1143. See also Methodist Publishing House: Church-school publications Debt of located minister to, 375 District Conference inquiry, 689 (9) District superintendent's promotion, 362 (15f) Editors, 1132, 1143-48, 1422-23, 2113, 2134 Executives, 1123, 1126, 1137-42, 2113 Extension of business, 1140 Forms and report blanks, 131, 141, 145 (4), 352 (28), 1120 (6), 1155 General church periodicals, 278 (8), 288, 352 (18, 22g, 27), 362 (15f), 689, 1132, 1144, 1492 (5), 1569 (7) General Minutes, 1120 (5) Income, 1124-25, 1127-28 *New Christian Advocate, The*, 1132, 1144, 1591 (2a), 1609 (2), 2113 Objects and organization, 1121-28 President. See Publisher Printing, 530 (2), 1120 (5-6), 1154-55 Publisher, 1123, 1132, 1140, 1149, 1426-27, 2113. *For details see* Publisher Real estate and building, 1156-57 Regional houses, 2113 *Religion in Life*, 1133, 1143, 2113 Religious books, editor of, 2113 Representatives on other agencies, 1417 (2), 1595 (1) Salaries, 1132 *Together*, 278 (8), 288, 1132, 1144, 1609 (2), 2113 See also Publications; Books

Methodist Rural Fellowship, 1231 (1)

Methodist Scholarship Fund, National, 250 (4), 1358

Methodist schools of theology, 149 (1), 670, 673, 1233, 1275, 1351, 1352 (4), 1372, 1374 (3), 1378-80, 1390, 1569 (9), 2128. See also Schools of theology

INDEX

Methodist Social Creed, 1547, 2020

Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 296 (1d) 1356 (3)

Methodist Student Movement, 432 (4), 675, 1172 (5), 1326, 1369-70, 1404 (2), 1406 (2), 1442, 1443, 1448, 1468. See also Student; Wesley Foundation

Methodist Sunday Evening Fellowship, 243

Methodist, use of name, 701

Methodist Woman, The, 753 (3), 2118

Methodist Youth, National Conference of, 1404-5, 2131. *For details see* National Conference of Methodist Youth

Methodist Youth Fellowship, 244 (4), 1403 Age limits, 244 (1) Annual Conference. See Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship Chairman of Christian witness, 221 (1) Definition, 244 (4), 1403 District Conference inquiry, 689 (2) District superintendent's promotion, 362 (15c) Literature, 1426 (1) Membership, 244 (4), 1403 Methodist Men, co-operation with, 292 (3) National commission, 1172 (6), 1326, 1405, 1406 (1), 1468 Opportunities for initiative, 233 (5) Pastor's duty, 352 (7) President, 209 138 (3), 153 (3) Reports, 352 (22c) Representatives of, 232, 234, 256, 1231 (1)

Methodist Youth Fund, 1285 (2), 1413 (2)

Mexico, Methodist Church of, 601-2, 1885

Michigan Area, 2102

Michigan Conference, 1797, 2102

Mid-China Conference, 1861 (5), 1876, 2103

Mindanao Conference, 1868, 1880, 2007 (1), 2103

Minimum Salaries, Commission on, 651 (4s), 826

Minimum salaries for pastors, 651 (9), 822-23, 826, 1252 (4b), 1295. See also Ministerial support.

Minister: Appointed to attend school, 431 (6) Appointment, 104, 431 (4), 432. *For details see* Appointment of preachers Character of, 22, 377, 638, 646, 848, 651 (19) Conference relations, 22, 364-82, 637, 646-48, 651 (19-46) Definition, 2100 Disability. See Pension regulations Discontinuance, 321, 328, 330, 651 (27). See also Location of minister Education. See Ministerial education Educational history, 674 (3) Influence of, 306 (5), 322 (5) Location, 374-79. *For details see* Location of minister Mail addresses, 1120 (8) Ordination. See Orders, ministerial Pensions. See Pension regulations Quarterly Conference membership, 138 (1), 153 (1), 431 (6) Requirement to receive appointment, 432 (9) Retired, 138 (1), 153 (1), 367-71, 379, 435 (2), 559 (2), 647, 651 (35, 42), 668, 687, 1610 (6), 1617, 1619, 1630, 2100 Sabbatical leave, 264, 668. *For details see* Sabbatical leave Service records, 661

Minister, cont'd:
 Special appointment. *See* Special appointment
 Supernumerary, 138 (1), 153 (1), 365, 647, 651 (40), 668, 687, 1030 (14), 2100
 Support. *See* Ministerial support
 Transfer 431 (7), 602 (2), 603, 638, 647, 651 (33, 36-37), 671, 1644 (6), 1645 (2-3), 1646 (2-4), 1656 (2b, 3, 4b)
 Wife or husband, 322 (4)
See also Annual Conference: Membership; Ministry; Pastor

Minister of music, 232, 1451 (1), 1396, 1401 (3)

Ministerial credentials. *See* Credentials

Ministerial delegates *See* Delegates; *also* under appropriate organization

Ministerial education, 689, 1351 (1), 1352 (4), 1372-80
 Approved supply pastor, 316-18, 393 (3), 403 (3), 2041, 2044-48
 Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, 669-74. *For details see* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications
 Correspondence studies, 673, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1374 (3-4), 2041 (1, 5)
 Counsel, 352 (20), 362 (9)
 Courses of study, 1374, 2041-48. *For details see* Courses of study
 Department of, 1372-76. *For details see* Department of Ministerial Education
 Examinations and credits, 306-7, 317-18, 326-27, 344, 674, 695 (2) 2041 (11)
 Interdenominational relations, 1372 (4)
 Methodist studies, 306 (4), 342, 344, 2041 (9), 2043-44, 2046-47
 Pastors' schools, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1374 (2)
 Schools of theology, 1378-80. *For details see* Methodist

Ministerial education, cont'd:
 schools of theology; Schools of theology
 Standards, 307, 323-25, 330-31, 342-44, 1372 (4)
 Support 1373, 1378
 Time limits, 307 (2), 317-18, 330, 343 (2)
 Training programs, 1398

Ministerial orders, 391-403, 1920-21. *For details see* Orders, ministerial

Ministerial Qualifications, District Committee on. *See* District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications

Ministerial recruitment, 145 (9), 149 (1), 651 (4g, 14d), 670, 676, 680, 1304 (3), 1372 (4), 1375, 1415, 1571

Ministerial support:
 Apportionments, 147-48, 261, 771, 798-99, 801-2, 821-23, 826-28, 1623-24
 Bishop, 8 (5), 15 (2), 19 (2), 147, 261, 435 (3), 559, 769-77, 821-23
 Borrowing funds, 769, 801
 Conference claimants, 147, 261, 821-23, 1601-57. *For details see* Pension regulations
 District superintendent, 147, 261, 651 (10), 801-2, 821-23, 827
 Expense reports, 829
 Minimum salaries for pastors 651 (9), 822-23, 826
 Mission, 610
 Moving expenses, 148, 829
 Nature of, 1615
 Pastor, 142 (6), 145 (7), 145 (8), 148, 150 (1), 215 (2), 261, 267 (7), 821-29
 Priority to be given, 267 (7), 709, 801, 821. *See also* Proportional payment
 Proportional payment, 267 (7), 802, 822-24, 1611 (8), 1623-24, 1630 (1)
 Provisional Annual Conference, 610
 Report on salary, 830
 Retired preachers. *See* Pension regulations
 Salary claim, limitation, 825
 Sustentation fund, 828
See also Finance

Ministerial Training and Qualifications, Board of, 669-74. *For details see* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications

Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, 1642-57
 Annuity. *See* Annuity
 Child, 1643 (8-10), 1649
 Committee on Reserve Pensions, 1645 (9)
 Contributions, 1624 (3), 1645-46
 Definitions, 1643
 Disability benefits, 1651
 Establishment of, 1642, 1655
 Funds, allocation of, 1653
 Initial reserve funds, 1654-56
 Membership, 1644
 Payment to conference treasurer, 1624 (2)
 Proportional payment, 1624, 1634
 Refunds, 1652, 1656 (11)
 Special appointment, 1645 (10)
 Transfers, 1644 (6), 1645 (2-3), 1646 (2-4), 1656 (2b, 3, 4b)
 Widow, 1643 (7), 1648, 1652 (4), 1656 (8a, c, 9)

Ministry, 391-446, 635-39, 645-48, 651 (19-46)
 Abstinence from tobacco, 306 (5), 322 (5)
 Admission into. *See* Admission of preachers
 Authority, 304 (2), 305, 318, 329, 392, 402
 Bishops, 421-46
 Call to preach, 301-3
 Candidates, 301-3, 304 (5), 321-45, 362 (9-10), 670-74, 689, 1238 (5), 1372 (4), 1374, 1380, 1924, 2041 (12)
 Central Conference adaptations, 562-63, 570-73
 Committee on, 1372 (4)
 District superintendents, 361-63
 Group, 2030
 Ideals of, 306 (5), 322 (5)
 License to preach, 304-7
 Local preachers, 304-20
 Mission traveling preachers, 385, 1206, 1233 (2, 4, 6)
 Missionaries, 1190-92
 Orders, ministerial, 391-403, 1920-21

Ministry, cont'd:
 Pastors, 351-56
 Preachers on trial, 321-31. *For details see* On trial, preacher
 Qualifications, 301-3, 306-7, 322-27, 330, 341-45
 Recruitment. *See* Ministerial recruitment
 Retirement, 367-71, 435-38, 559 (2), 1617. *See also* Minister: Retired
 Sabbatical leave, 364
 Special appointments. *See* Special appointment, minister in
 Study of, 1376
 Supernumerary ministers, 365
 Termination, 310-11, 374-82, 950-52, 1630 (17)
 Transfer of membership. *See* Transfer
 Traveling ministry, 321-85
 Withdrawal from, 380-82, 981, 1630 (8)
 Women in, 303, 562
For details see individual listings under the above heads

Ministry of Jesus, The Healing (resolution), 2031

Ministry to Neglected Areas, Interboard Committee on, 1289, 2124

Minnesota Area, 2102

Minnesota Conference, 1798, 2102

Minority language groups, 1215 (2)

Minutes:
 Annual Conference, 656, 746 (3). *See also* Journals: Annual Conference
 Council on World Service and Finance, 1119
 Field Committee, 1202 (1)
 General, 918, 1101, 1120 (5), 1629 (1)
 Quarterly Conference, 141, 154, 721

Mission, 352 (16, 22j), 362 (15d), 371, 431 (8), 433, 586, 589-93, 1206, 1238
 Administration of, 591-93, 606, 610-11, 615-16, 1206, 1238, 1631 (9), 1637
 Annual meeting, 1238 (4)

INDEX

Mission, cont'd:

- Appointment of preachers, 431 (4), 437 (1)
- Bilingual work, 1215 (4), 1220, 1222
- Central Conference representation, 543
- Conferences. *See* Provisional Annual Conferences
- Councils, 1207 (3), 1281
- Episcopal administration, 431 (8), 437 (1), 439, 446 (1), 589, 591-93, 1206, 1238, 2005, 2103
- General Conference authority over, 8 (3)
- Lay members, 1206 (2), 1238 (2)
- Local preachers, 1052, 1206 (3), 1238 (4)
- Property of local churches, 194
- Superintendent, 615, 1206 (3-4), 1238 (3)
- Traveling preacher, 385, 1206, 1238 (2, 4, 6). *See also* Missionary
- Visitation, 593, 604
- Week of Prayer, 1272
- See also* Board of Missions

Missionary:

- Admission into Annual Conference, 385, 1192
- Affiliated autonomous churches, 1207
- Annual meeting, 1206 (5)
- Annuity claim, 1622, 1631 (9), 1637
- Bishop, 446, 773. *See also* Bishop: Central Conference
- Commissioning and appointment of, 431 (4), 1191, 1198, 1927
- Councils, 1207 (3), 1281
- Education, 1249 (3), 1274, 1286-88, 1396-97, 1436. *See also* Interboard Committee on Missionary Education
- Eligibility for ministerial orders, 393 (5), 403 (5)
- Enlistment, 1189
- Institutes, 762 (5), 1272, 1275
- Lay, 623, 1192, 1206 (2), 1238 (2)
- List of, 659
- Literature, 257 (1-2), 1271, 1276
- Ordination of, 393 (5), 403 (5)
- Personnel, Committee on

Missionary, cont'd:

- (Woman's Division of Christian Service), 1249 (1)
- Personnel, Joint Committee on, 1189-90, 1252 (1, 4a, 12), 1254 (4b), 2115
- Retired, 1622, 1631 (9), 1637
- Secretary, conference, 432 (4), 755 (2), 1583 (2)
- Societies, city or district, 155 (1), 173 (2), 432 (4), 761 (4), 1229 (6), 1218-27, 1295
- Special-term ordained, 1192 (2)
- Standards and qualifications, 1190-91
- Traveling preacher, 385, 1206 (2-3), 1238 (2, 4, 6)
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1241

Missions, Board of, 1166-1308.

For details see Board of Missions (general); Conference Board of Missions; Jurisdictional Board of Missions

Missions, Commission on (local church), 256-57. *For details see* Commission on Missions

Missions, school of, 257 (2)

Mississippi Conference (C), 1775, 2102

Mississippi Conference (SE), 1747, 2102

Missouri Area, 2102

Missouri Conference, 1821, 2102

Monrovia Area, 2103

Montana Conference, 1844, 2012

Mortgage, 157 (2), 171-73, 1235 (6-7). *See also* Borrowing funds; Debt; Property

Motion pictures *See* Television, Radio, and Film Commission

Motive, 2127

Moving expenses, pastor, 148, 829

INDEX

Music:

- Choristers, ritual for recognition of, 1929
- Commission on Worship, Church, 219, 274, 1569 (11)
- Commission on Worship, General, 1569 (2)
- Committee (local church), 278 (4)
- Methodist Hymnal, The*, 8 (6), 1569 (5)
- Minister of, 232, 1396, 1401 (3), 1451 (1)
- National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians, 1401 (3)
- Organ, ritual for dedication of, 1935

N

Name of church, 2, 701

Narcotics, 1522, 1533, 2020 (11c), 2022 (3)

Nashville Area, 2102

National Association of Methodist Hospitals and Homes, 1501 (3), 1565

National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1172 (5), 1326, 1404-5, 1415 (2), 1408, 1529, 1536, 2131

National Conference on Town and Country Work, 1229 (7), 1230 (3b)

National Council of Churches, 778, 1372 (4), 1493, 1569 (12), 1581 (4d, 6), 1596, 2155, page 278

National Family Week, 250 (5), 296 (2a), 2021 (5)

National Fellowship of Methodist Musicians, 1401 (3)

National Methodist Scholarship Fund, 250 (4), 1358

National Methodist Student Commission, 1326, 1404 (2), 1405, 1406 (2)

National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission, 1172 (6), 1326, 1405, 1406 (1), 1468

National Missions, Division of. *See* Division of National Missions

Nebraska Area, 2102

Nebraska Conference, 1822, 2102

Neglected Areas, Interboard Committee on Ministry to, 1239, 2124

Negro education, 250 (3), 1340, 1357

Nepal Mission, 1872, 1882

New Christian Advocate, The, 1132, 1144, 1591 (2a), 1609 (2), 2113

New church. *See* Organization: New local church

New England Conference, 1721, 2102

New England Southern Conference, 1722, 2102

New Hampshire Conference, 1723, 2102

New Jersey Conference, 1724, 2102

New Mexico Conference, 1823, 2102

New Orleans Area, 2102

New York Area, 2102

New York Conference, 1725, 2102

New York East Conference, 1726, 2102

Newark Conference, 1727, 2102

News of Methodism. *See* Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information

Nominating Committee: Annual Conference, 791
Board of Education, 1327 (1-2)
Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1434, 1435

INDEX

Nominating Committee, cont'd:
Jurisdictional Conference, 1546
See also Nominations: Committee on

Nominations:

Committee on (local church), 143-45, 155 (6), 160-61, 183, 208, 212, 232, 278 (2), 352 (16)
From the floor, 143-44, 145 (1), 160-61, 212, 278 (2)
Judicial Council candidates, 901
See also Nominating Committee and under name of nominating body

North Africa Conference, 1864
(6), 1875, 2103

North Alabama Conference, 1748, 2102

North Arkansas Conference, 1824, 2102

North Carolina Conference (C), 1776, 2102

North Carolina Conference (SE), 1749, 2102

North Central Jurisdiction, 26
Annual Conferences, 1792-1809
Areas, episcopal, 2102
College of Bishops, 2105
Map, page 494
Officers, 2109

North China Conference, 1861
(6), 1876, 2103

North Dakota Conference, 1799, 2102

North Georgia Conference, 1750, 2102

North India Conference, 1871
(9), 1882, 2103

North Indiana Conference, 1800, 2102

North Iowa Conference, 1801, 2102

North Mississippi Conference, 1751, 2102

North Texas Conference, 1825, 2102

Northeast Germany Conference, 1863 (5), 1877, 2008
(1, 3), 2103

North-East Ohio Conference, 1802, 2102

Northeastern Jurisdiction, 26,
2005 (2)
Annual Conferences, 1714-35
Areas, episcopal, 2102
College of Bishops, 2105
Map, page 494
Officers, 2109

Northern Europe Area, 2103

Northern Europe Central Conference, 1879, page 513

Northern New York Conference, 1723, 2102

Northern Philippines Conference, 1867 (1), 1880, 2103

Northwest Germany Conference, 1863 (6), 1877, 2103

Northwest Indiana Conference, 1803, 2102

Northwest Philippines Conference, 1867 (2), 1880, 2103

Northwest Texas Conference, 1826, 2102

Norway Conference, 1863 (7), 1879, 2103

Notice:

Bishop's retirement, 436 (3)
Judicial procedure, 923, 934-35, 941, 947, 958, 966, 1008-9, 1010, 1013, 1021, 1025, 1035, 1041-43, 1046-47, 1053, 1057-58
Meeting, 154, 160, 163, 168, 170-72, 180 (3, 6), 186, 196, 716 (1)
Sabbatical leave, 364

Notification, letter of (membership transfer), 119, 121-22, 128, 243, 245

O

Oaths, loyalty, 2025

Offerings, special. *See* Special days; Special gifts

INDEX

Office addresses. *See* Directory

Officers:

Agencies, 783 (2). *See also* Directory and under name of agency
Church-school, 143 (7-9), 231, 233 (3, 6), 246, 248-49, 257 (5), 1398 (2), 1928
Fiscal, *See* Financial secretary; Treasurer; also Bond, surety
Jurisdictional Conferences, 2109
Local-church, 112, 142 (3), 143-45, 155 (7), 157-61, 207-12
Rituals for ordination, consecration, commissioning, recognition, etc., 1920-29

Official Board, 206-19, 2100

Chairman, 212, 288, 352 (14)
Commissions, 219-76
Committees, 278
Duties and powers, 109, 144, 145 (5, 7), 148, 213-19, 257 (4), 261-68, 278, 286, 288-91
Lay speakers, constituting, 146 (3)
Meetings, 213
Membership, 207-11
Nursery school and/or kindergarten, 245
Officers, 212, 278 (2)
Organization, 212
Planning meeting, 216
Quadrennial emphasis, 2017 (3b)
Relation to Quarterly Conference, 142 (1), 150 (1), 206, 208, 210-11, 213, 215 (1, 6)
Reports to, 215, 221 (4), 266-67, 278, 288, 1543
Training of, 352 (22), 1492 (11)

Official church papers. *See* General church periodicals

Official pronouncements of The Methodist Church, 512, 2020-32

Ohio Area, 2102

Ohio Conference, 1804, 2102

Oklahoma Conference, 1827, 2111

Oklahoma Indian Mission. *See* Indian Mission

Oklahoma - New Mexico Area, 2102

On trial, preacher, in Annual Conference, 321-31, 393 (1-2, 5-6), 630, 651 (25-27), 673, 1238 (6), 1630 (12), 2100

Opening a church for worship, ritual for, 1934

Orders, ministerial, 391-403
Accommodation ordinations, 651 (33)

Annual Conference authority, 22, 646

Approved supply pastor, 304, 391-92, 393 (3), 401-2, 403 (3), 404-5

Credentials, 431 (9)

Deacon's, 341, 391-93, 651 (29, 30), 671, 695 (3), 1920, 2100

Deprivation and restoration of credentials, 991-96

Elder's, 401-5, 563, 651 (31, 32), 671, 695 (3), 1921, 2100

General Conference authority, 8 (2)

Local preacher, 304, 391-92, 393 (4), 401-2, 403 (4), 404-5, 411 (1), 2100

Ordination, 404, 431 (9), 651 (30, 32-33), 1920-21, 2100

Recognition of orders from other churches, 411-15

Requirement for conference membership, 322 (1), 341

Orders, vote by (ministers and laymen), 22, 505 (2), 507

Orders of worship, 1569 (3), 1901-6. *See also* Worship

Ordinances, 362 (15a).

Ordination. *See* Orders, ministerial

Oregon Conference, 1845, 2102

Organ, ritual for dedication of, 1935

Organization:
Agencies, 783 (1)

New local church, 155, 173 (2), 222 (14), 641, 651 (18a), 1217, 1220, 1235 (1), 1930

Organization, cont'd:
Study of, in The Methodist Church, 1115 (2). *See also* Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas; Commission to Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System

Orphanage, 362 (15d), 711 (2).
See also Home

Orphans:
Bishop's, 769-70, 772, 774
Minister's. *See* Pension regulations; Ministers Reserve Pension Fund

Overseas:
Bishops, 1172, 2018 (1a), 2103.
See also Bishops: Central Conference
Conferences and missions, 1860-85, 2103
Relief. *See* Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief
Representatives on agencies, 1111, 1172, 2012 (2), 2018 (1a)

P

Pacific Japanese Conference, 1851, 2102

Pacific Northwest Conference, 1846, 2102

Pakistan:
Annual Conference, 1871 (6)
Area, 2103
Church union, 2011 (2)

Pamphlets, 278 (8). *See also* Books; Literature; Publications

Panama, 1866 (2)

Papers, church, 362 (15f), 689.
See also Periodicals

Parent study groups, 243, 2021 (5)

Parish area, 362 (15f), 2030

Parish house, ritual for dedication of, 1936

Parking facilities, church building, 722

Parsonage:
Building or purchase of, 180-81, 723, 1235 (4, 6), 1236 (1, 5)
Circuit, 183
Committee, 145 (7), 278 (5)
District, 651 (45), 716, 801
Episcopal residence, 712
See also Building; Property

Pastor, 351-56
Appointment, 104, 304 (4), 305, 309, 351, 362 (3), 432 (1)
Associate, 138 (1), 431 (4), 771
Authority, 165, 248 (2), 286
Benevolences, 352 (15)
Definition, 351
Duties, 103 107, 118-32, 143-45, 146 (3), 147, 149, 153, 155, 160-61, 168, 170-72, 196-97, 206-8, 221-22, 232, 233 (6b), 246-47, 250 (5), 256-57, 262, 266, 274, 276, 278, 282 (5), 288, 312, 352-56, 362 (15), 752, 762, (4), 764 (1), 670, 1226

Expenses, 148, 829
Membership. *See* Membership, church
Official Board, 207, 352 (14)
Parsonage. *See* Parsonage
Pastoral Relations, Committee on, 145 (2)
Periodical for, 1144 (1)
Preaching, 304, 345 (10), 352 (1, 16-17, 19-21, 22d), 392
Proportional payments, 267 (7), 802, 822-24, 1611 (8), 1623-24, 1630 (1)
Records, 118-32, 352 (22-28)
Reports, 109, 118-32, 142 (2), 148, 150 (3), 250, 352 (22, 28), 370 630, 707, 711 (4), 760 (6), 761 (3-5), 763, 764 (5), 829, 1226, 1413 (2)
Restrictions on, 353-54, 356
Sacraments, authority to administer, 318, 329, 352 (2), 392, 402
Salary, 142 (6), 145 (8), 148, 150 (1), 215 (2), 261, 267 (7), 610, 771, 821-30, 825
Schools, 674 (2), 1372 (3), 1509 (9), 1589 (2)
Supervision of, 352 (9, 13), 362 (8)
Visitation, 125, 345 (15), 352 (3, 22f)
See also Approved supply pas-

Pastor, cont'd:
tor; Local church; Minister; Ministry; Supply pastor

Pastoral charge, 103-4, 137
Annual Church Conference, 197-200
Apportionments for, 145 (8), 147-48, 261, 795-802, 822-23, 826-28
Circuit, 104, 362 (15f), 433, 2100
Definition, 104
Officers, 142-45
Property, 151-52, 183-84. *See also* Property
Quarterly Conference, 31-32, 104, 137-55. *For details see* Quarterly Conference
Trustees, 138 (3), 153 (3), 155 (7), 155 (8), 183-84
See also Circuit; Local church; Pastor

Pastoral Relations, Committee on, 145 (2)

Pastoral visitation, 125, 345 (15), 352 (3, 22f)

Pastors and Church Officials, File of, 1120 (8)

Patagonia, 2007 (2)

Peace. See World Peace

Peninsula Conference, 1729

Pension code. See Pension regulations

Pension funds, 9 (5)
Annual Conference organizations and funds, 1610-11
Annuity rates, 1612 (6)
Assessments, unpaid, 1610 (3), 1634
Contribution required, 1610 (4), 1658 (3)
Disallowance of annuity claim, 1610 (4)
Distributable funds, 1610 (2)
Distributing Committee, 1609
Financial policy, 1612
General Endowment Fund for Conference Claimants, 1608
Initial Reserve Fund, 1654, 1656 (7)
Lay Employees, 1658-59
Lien, 1610 (3), 1634

Pension funds, cont'd:
Limitations and restrictions, 1610 (2), 1650
Mergor of Annual Conferences, 1609
Methodist Publishing House appropriation, 1625 (1a)
Ministers Reserve, 1642-57. *For details see* Ministers Reserve Pension Fund
Obligations, 1610 (3), 1634
Partial Reserve, 1656
Permanent, 1607-9, 1610 (1, 3)
Real property, 1612 (5)
Refund of contributions, 1610 (4), 1652, 1656 (11)
Reserve, 1642-57
Restrictions and limitations, 1610 (2), 1650
Retired Ministers Day, 1610 (6)
Special offerings, 1625 (1e)
Stabilization, 1611 (13)
See also Pension regulations

Pension Legislation, Committee on, 1665

Pension regulations:
Administration, 1613
Adopted child, 1618 (7), 1643 (10)
Annuity. *See* Annuity
Apportionments, 147, 261, 651 (11), 1623-24, 1629 (4), 1630 (5-6)
Approved supply pastor, 651 (22), 1623 (5, 6), 1657, 1630 (10), 1631
Authorization, 1610
Automatically retired, 1630 (7)
Bank, 1611 (11)
Bishops, 769-70, 772, 774-77, 1681
Bishops' secretaries, 1659
Board of Conference Claimants. *See* Conference Board of Pensions
Board of Pensions. *See* Board of Pensions
Bond, 1611 (12)
Bonus, 1612 (2), 1624 (6)
Borrowing money, 1612 (8)
Cash settlement, 1652 (2)
Certificate of participation, 1658 (10)
Chaplain, 1618 (2h)
Chartered Fund, 9 (5), 1607, 1625 (2a)

INDEX

Pension regulations, cont'd:
 Child, dependent, 435 (2), 769-70, 772, 774, 1618 (7), 1621, 1627 (4), 1630 (4), 1630 (12), 1630 (13), 1649
 Chronological roll, 1629 (3)
 Claim. See Annuity: Claim
 Clearinghouse, 431 (7), 1634 (2, 3), 1636
 Code, 1613-1637
 Commission, 1612 (2)
 Compensation, supplementary, 1624 (6)
 Conference Board of Pensions, 651 (4p), 14a, 661, 798, 1610-12, 1617-35, 1645 (9), 1656 (6)
 Conference claimants, 261, 435 (2), 798, 821-23, 828, 1614-31, 1634
 Contingent Fund, 1651 (2), 1653 (1, 4-6), 1656 (10-12)
 Contributions, 1645 (1), 1646 (1), 1656 (3, 4a, 5)
 Contributory Annuity Fund, Joint, 1618 (2h)
 Deaconesses, 1252 (9)
 Death benefit, 1651 (2)
 Deficiency in payment, 1645 (7), 1656 (3c)
 Definitions, 1614, 1618
 Dependency benefits, 1614, 1620-21, 1631 (7)
 Depository, 1611 (11)
 Disability, 775, 1617 (4), 1623 (5), 1630 (2), 1631 (5), 1651, 1656 (11)
 Disability, Widows, and Children Fund, 1648 (2), 1653 (1, 3)
 Disallowance of claim, 1627
 Distributing Committee, 1609
 Distribution of annuities, 1610 (2), 1625
 Divided annuity responsibility, 435 (2), 559 (2), 1608, 1609, 1618, 1634 (3), 1636, 1637
 Dwelling, 1630 (18)
 Emergency fund, 1611 (10), 1617 (5-7), 1623 (3), 1625 (2), 1630 (3, 14)
 Employer, 1643 (1), 1658
 Entrant, new, 1643 (11), 1644 (3, 4), 1654
 Entrant, previous, 1643 (11), 1644 (2)
 Episcopal Fund, allowance from, 435 (2), 559 (2)
 Exceptions, 1630 (11)
 Failure in payment, 1645 (8)

Pension regulations, cont'd:
 Fees, 1658 (11)
 Financial policy, 1612
 Foreign countries, operation in, 1633
 Fractional years of service, 1618 (2i)
 General regulations, 1630
 Group life insurance, 1630 (10)
 Illinois Corporation, 1601
 Incapacity, mental or physical, 1621 (2)
 Income annuity, 1643 (5, 6), 1646 (1, 7), 1647 (2, 3), 1648, 1652, 1656 (4c, 8c-8e)
 Interest, regular, 1643 (3)
 Investment committee, 1612 (1)
 Investment funds, 1610 (1)
 Investments, 1612 (4), 1625 (1b)
 Investments printed in journal, 1612 (7)
 Joint and survivorship annuity, 1658 (6b)
 Joint Distributing Committee, 1609
 Lay Employees Pension Fund, 1658-59
 Liabilities, 1654, 1654 (1)
 Liens on annuities, 1634
 Life insurance company, 1630 (10)
 Loans from pension funds, 1612 (2, 3)
 Located person, 1630 (15)
 Maryland Corporation, 1601
 Medical certificate, 1617 (4, 6)
 Methodist Church, The, definition, 1618 (8)
 Methodist institutions, 1618 (9), 1623 (7)
 Ministerial support, 1615
 Ministers Reserve Pension Fund, 1624 (3), 1642-57
 Missionary, 1622, 1631 (9), 1637
 Missouri Corporation, 1601
 Moneys for distribution, 1625
 Operation through General Board, 1635
 Partial Reserve Fund, 1656
 Participating employer, employee, 1658 (2b, 2d)
 Payment in advance of income, 1625 (4)
 Payment of annuities, 1625 (3)
 Penalty for defaults, 1630 (5)
 Pension, 1643 (6)

INDEX

Pension regulations, cont'd:
 Pension code, 1613-37, 1643 (13)
 Permanent funds, 1607-9, 1610 (1, 3)
 Preachers aid societies, 1610 (1)
 Proportional payment, 1611 (8), 1624, 1630 (1), 1630 (5-6)
 Real property, 1612 (5)
 Refunds, 1652, 1656 (11)
 Relief money, 1611 (9-10), 1625 (2), 1631 (5)
 Relinquishment of claim, 1626, 1630 (9)
 Remuneration, 1612 (2)
 Reserve Pension Funds, 1624 (3), 1642-57
 Retirement, 367-69, 435-38, 559 (2), 774-77, 1614, 1617, 1619, 1658 (6, 8)
 Sabbatical leave, 1618 (2f)
 Salary, average, 1618 (6), 1645 (1), 1646 (1), 1653 (1), 1656 (4a)
 Schedule of payments, 1635 (2, 4), 1646 (1)
 Secretaries of bishops, 1659
 Service annuity, 1643 (4), 1647 (1), 1648, 1651 (b), 1652, 1653 (2, 5c), 1656 (8a-d, 12b)
 Service Annuity Fund, 1653 (1, 2)
 Service fee, 1635 (3)
 Service records, 661, 1629
 Special claimants, 1631
 Stabilization Fund, 1611 (13)
 Student, 1618 (2e)
 Supernumerary ministers, 365, 1630 (14)
 Support, 1643 (2)
 Survivorship and joint annuity, 1658 (6b)
 Term episcopacy, 559 (2)
 Termination of employment, 1658 (8)
 Transfers, 1656 (3d, 4b)
 Widow, 435 (2), 769-70, 772, 774, 777, 1614, 1618, (2g, 3b), 1620, 1627 (4), 1630 (12), 1630 (13), 1631 (7), 1648 (1), 1652 (4), 1656 (8a, 8e, 9)
 Years of approved service, 777, 1618 (1-5)
Pensions, Board of, 1601-6. For details see Board of Pensions
Per diem expenses, 602 (3), 605

Percentage. See Ratio distribution of funds
Periodicals:
Central Christian Advocate, 278 (8), 1144 (3-5), 2113
Christian Home, 2021 (2)
 Church-school. See Publications: Church-school
 Family, 1144
 General church, 278 (8), 288, 352 (18, 22g, 27), 362 (15f), 689, 1132, 1144, 1492 (5), 1569 (7), 2113
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1180 (1), 1271
Methodist Layman, 292 (8), 753 (3), 2137
Methodist Woman, 753 (3), 2118
Motive, 2127
New Christian Advocate, 278 (8), 1144, 2113
Religion in Life, 1133, 1143, 2113
Together, 278 (8), 1144, 2113
Upper Room, 222 (10), 1472, 1485, 2021 (2), 2136
World Outlook, 2120
Permanent Fund, 709, 711 (2), 1252 (2). See also Pension funds
Permanent Funds and Estimates, Committee on, 1249 (1)
Personnel. See Agencies, administrative; Personnel policies
Personnel Bureau (Board of Hospitals and Homes), 1564
Peru Conference, 1866 (3), 1878, 2103
Philadelphia Area, 2102
Philadelphia Conference, 1730, 2102
Philippines:
 Annual Conferences, 1867-68, 1880, 2103
 Areas, episcopal, 2103
 Central Conference, 1880
 Conference, 1867 (3), 1880, 2103
 Map, page 517

Physical examination (for admission to Annual Conference), 322 (4), 341, 411

Pittsburgh Area, 2102

Pittsburgh Conference, 1731

Plan of Union, 1-44

Planned parenthood, 2021 (3c)

Planning meeting:
Church Conference, 196
Official Board, 216

Pledges, 267 (1, 3), 282 (3, 4)

Policy, Committee on (local church), 145 (6)

Polish Conference, 1864 (7), 1875, 2007 (1), 2103

Portland Area, 2102

Portuguese East Africa, 1860 (5)

Powers of dismissal, 1065

Prayer meetings, 352 (8)

Prayer, Week of, 1272

Preacher. *See* Local preacher; Minister; Preacher on trial

Preacher in charge, 104, 248 (2), 286, 351

Preacher on trial, 321-31, 393 (1-2, 5-6), 630, 651 (25-27), 673, 1238 (6), 1630 (12), 2100. *See also* Traveling preacher

Preachers aid societies, 432 (4), 1610 (1)

Preaching, 301-2, 304-5, 312, 345 (10), 352 (1, 16, 17, 19-21, 22d), 362 (1), 392

Preaching missions, 773

Preaching place:
Discontinuance of, 126, 188, 354
New, 362 (15c)

Premarital counseling, 355-56

Preparatory members, 127-29, 132, 352 (23, 26), 1913

President:

Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 1591 (2b, 3), 2128
Board of Education, 1422, 2126
Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1554 (1), 2142
Board of Lay Activities, 1497, 2137
Board of Missions, 1174, 2115
Board of Publication, 1129, 1138, 1140-42. *See also* Publisher
Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1548, 1549 (1), 2141
Board of Temperance, 1525 (1), 2139
College of Bishops, 775, 923-25, 2105
Conference Board of Education, 755 (2), 1444, 1446-47, 1450
Conference Board of Missions, 755 (2), 1231 (1)
Conference Commission on World Service and Finance, 755 (2), 792
Conference Methodist Youth Fellowship, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1443, 1452
Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1231 (1), 1253 (2c), 1256 (3, 4), 1291, 1295, 1583 (2)
Council of Bishops, 776, 2104
Council on World Service and Finance, 1117, 2111
District Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1257 (4)
Division of National Missions, 1212, 2117
Division of World Missions, 1201, 2116
Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1269, 2120
Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1252 (3), 1253 (2c), 1255 (4), 1291
Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1432-34
Jurisdictional Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1565
Jurisdictional Board of Temperance, 1530
Methodist Publishing House, 1132, 1138, 1140-42. *See also* Publisher

President, cont'd:

Methodist Student Movement, 1404 (2), 1406 (2)
National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1404 (3), 1405, 2131
Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1581 (3), 2150
University Senate, 1388, 2129
Woman's Division of Christian Service, 755 (2), 1243, 2118

Presiding elder. *See* District superintendent

Principals, ministers appointed as school, 432 (4-5)

Printing for church agencies, 530 (2), 1120 (5-6), 1154-55

Probationers in the ministry. *See* Preacher on trial

Profession of faith, 102, 105, 107-8, 129, 155 (4-5), 222 (3), 352 (26)

Program of local church, planning, 196, 215 (6), 216

Prohibition, 1522, 2022-23

Project secretaries (National Conference of Methodist Youth), 1404 (4), 1415 (1), 2131

Promotion and Cultivation, Commission on. *See* Commission on Promotion and Cultivation

Promotion, and Publication, Interagency Commission on Cultivation, 1576-79, 2147

Promotion, secretary of, 1257 (4)

Promotional materials, 1153

Promotional office, central, 750-54

Property, 159-94, 701-30
Abandoned, 188, 354, 362 (11-12), 706
Acquisition of, 167-70
Adjustments for boundary changes, 184, 534, 712, 716 (3), 1609

Property, cont'd:

Alienation, 533, 581 (3)
Allocation or comity agreement, 189 (2)
Auditing and bonding, 729
Board of Temperance, 1527 (2)
Building. *See* Building
Central Conferences, 194, 580-81
Committee on Church, 278 (6)
Conference Board of Education, 1442
Deeds, 164 (1, 2, 8), 166 (4), 167, 169, 171-72, 171-180 (8), 188-89
Distribution of equities with boundary change, 184, 534, 712, 716 (3), 1609
District, 716
District superintendent's duties, 362 (7)
Education building, 180
Education building, dedication of, 1936, 1938
Federated church, 189 (1)
Gifts for, 745-46 (1)
Income from, 164 (4)
Insurance, 164 (7), 188 (1)
Inventory, 164 (3)
Jurisdictional Conference, 533-35
Limitation on use of building funds, 173, 716 (3)
Local church, 150 (1), 156-94, 354
Local laws, 156-58, 165-67, 169-70, 176, 180, 189, 730
Location and building, 155 (1), 180 (2), 721-24
Lot for building, 167-70, 180 (8), 722
Merger of local churches, 186-87, 189
Methodist, use of name, 701
Mortgage, 157 (2), 171-73, 1235 (6-7)
Parish house, dedication of, 1936
Personage, 145 (7), 150 (1), 174 (2), 180, 183-84, 712, 716
Pastor's authority over use of, 165
Purchase, 157 (2), 167-70, 180
Quarterly Conference authority, 151-54, 157-58, 166 (4), 168, 170-72, 180
Real and personal, 1170
Repairs, remodeling, 157 (2), 180, 723, 1235 (1, 4), 1236 (1, 5), 1237 (2)

INDEX

- Property, cont'd:**
 Sale, transfer, mortgage of, 157
 (2), 171-73, 188-90
 Title to, 167, 169
 Trust clause, 167, 169
 Trustees. *See* Trustees
 Used by other churches, 362
 (11)
- Proportional payment (prorating),** 267 (7), 771, 802, 823, 1611 (8), 1623-24, 1630 (1)
- Proportional Payment of Ministerial Support, Committee on,** 1611 (8)
- Provisional Annual Conference,** 586, 589-93, 606-12
 Appointment of preachers, 431
 (4), 437 (1)
 Auditing and bonding of fiscal officers, 729
 Authorization, 606-7
 Bilingual work, 331, 1215 (4), 1220, 1222
 Boundaries. *See* name of conference
 Conference Board of Missions, 612
 Delegates to General and Jurisdictional or Central Conferences, 7, 13, 17, 607
 General Conference authority over, 8 (3)
 General Conference representation, 503
 Judicial administration, 948, 965
 Membership minimum, 606
 Morger of, 1609 (1, 4, 6)
 Ministerial support, 610
 Pensions, 1637, 1642, 1656 (1)
 Powers and duties, 331
 Presiding bishop, 437 (1), 609
 Property of local churches, 194
 Superintendent, 608-9
See also Annual Conference
- Provisional Central Conference,** 194, 446 (3), 541, 548, 550, 586-90, 592, 606, 1252 (1b), 1884-85
- Psychological tests (for admission to Annual Conference),** 322 (4), 341
- Public morals,** 1521-22, 2022
- Public relations. *See* Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information**
- Public schools, religion and (resolution),** 2028
- Public welfare,** 1248 (1)
- Public worship. *See* Worship**
- Publication, Board of, 1123-44.**
For details see Board of Publication
- Publication, Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and,** 1576-79, 2147
- Publications,** 352 (18, 22g, 27), 362 (15f), 753, 1146, 1271, 1270, 1421-26
 Audio-visual materials, 257 (1), 1425, 1581
Book of Worship for Church and Home, The, 1569 (4)
 Books, 257 (2), 278 (8), 1122, 1143, 1146, 1271, 1276, 1425, 2113
Central Christian Advocate, 278 (8), 1144 (3-5), 2113
Central Conference, 556
Christian Home, 2021 (2)
 Church-school, 233 (3), 278 (8), 352 (18), 1132, 1143, 1145-53, 1421-26, 1428-29, 1441, 2113, 2134, 2135
 Classification of educational institutions, 1384
 Conference and area, 278 (8)
 Curriculum. *See* Curriculum
 Devotional and evangelistic, 1485
 Distribution, 753 (2)
 Evangelistic and devotional, 221 (3), 222 (6-10)
 Family, periodical for, 1144
 Fourth-Sunday world service leaflets, 754
 General church periodicals, 352 (18, 22g, 27), 1144, 1569 (7), 2113
General Minutes, 767, 918, 1101, 1120 (5), 1629 (1)
 Hymnal. *See* *The Methodist Hymnal*
 Journals, conference. *See* Journals
 Judicial Council decisions, 918, 2002

INDEX

- Publications, cont'd:**
 Leaflets, world service, 754
 Local-church program journal, 753 (3), 754
Methodist Layman, 292 (8), 753 (3), 2137
 Methodist Student Movement, 1369-70
Methodist Woman, 753 (3), 2118
 Missionary, 257 (1-2), 1271, 1276, 1287
Motive, 2127
New Christian Advocate, 278 (8), 1144, 2113
 Pamphlets, 278 (8)
 Pastors, periodical for, 1144
 Promotional, 753-54
 Record forms and books, 1120 (6), 1155
Religion in Life, 1133, 1143, 2113
 Spiritual life, cultivation of, 1485
 Stewardship literature, 753 (4)
 Temperance, 1522
 Tidings literature, 2136
Together, 278 (8), 1144, 2113
 Training for church membership, 1418
Upper Room, 222 (10), 1472, 1485, 2021 (2), 2136
World Outlook, 2120
 Worship materials, 1569 (2, 6-7)
 Yearbooks, 1120 (5)
 Youth, Department of, 1404 (2), 1406 (1, 3)
See also Editors
- Publisher, 1123, 1138**
 Address, 2113
 Appointment of, episcopal, 432 (4)
 Authority, 1140, 1144 (4), 1151
 Board of Education, relation to, 1426-27
 Bond required for, 1141
 Joint responsibility with book editor, 1143
 Responsibility for church-school publications, 1147, 1149, 1426-27
 Salary, 1132
- Publishing House. *See* Methodist Publishing House**
- Puerto Rico, 1213**
- Puerto Rico Conference, 1735, 2102**
- Pulpit supply, 145 (2)**
- Q**
- Quadrennial Commission on Christian Higher Education, 2018 (1), 2161**
- Quadrennial commissions, 2011-14**
- Quadrennial Committee on Local-Church Goals, 651 (4v), 2017 (1)**
- Quadrennial Emphasis, Church school literature and, 2027**
- Quadrennial program, 2016-19**
- Qualifications, ministerial. *See* Conference Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications; District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications**
- Quarterly Conference, 31-32, 104, 137-55, 157-58**
 Adaptations by Central Conference, 566
 Advance specials, 149 (3), 757
 Annual Church Conference, 197-200
 Basic Salary Plan, 827
 Business of, 141, 149, 1120 (6)
 Church Conference, 196-200
 Church Quarterly Conference (circuit), 152-54, 158
 Commissions and committees constituted by, 142 (3), 143-45, 180, 198, 219
 Deaconesses, recommending candidates, 142 (5), 146 (2), 1254 (4b)
 Decisions on questions of law in, 362 (14), 1034
 Definition, 104, 137, 2100
 District property, 716 (1)
 Education, Christian, 149 (1), 362 (15e)
 Elections, 32, 143-45, 352 (16), 362 (10)
 General Conference authority over, 8 (3)
 Lay speakers, certifying, 142 (5), 146 (3)
 License to preach, recommend-

INDEX

Quarterly Conference, cont'd:
 ing candidates for, 142 (5),
 148 (1), 306-7, 695 (2)
 Meetings of, 139, 140
 Membership in, 138, 153, 155
 (7), 308-10, 365, 370-71,
 374, 431 (6), 671, 1252 (10)
 Ministerial support, 142 (6),
 145 (7), 145 (8), 147-48,
 150 (1), 215 (2), 261, 267
 (7), 821-29
 Minutes of, 140-41, 154, 721
 Officers, 32, 139-40, 142 (3),
 143
 Official Board, relation to, 142
 (1), 150 (1), 206, 208, 210-
 11, 213, 215 (1, 6)
 Order of business, 141
 Organization, 138-42
 Pastoral charge, 104
 Powers and duties, 125, 142-55,
 157-58, 160-61, 165, 168,
 170-72, 176, 178, 183, 186-
 87, 189, 166 (4), 208, 210-11,
 219, 221 (1), 232, 246-47,
 256-57, 274, 276, 306-10, 354,
 362 (15)
 President, 139, 352 (14), 362
 (5)
 Recording steward, 140, 143
 (12), 145, (4), 197, 1024
 Records of, 140-41, 145 (4),
 148, 154, 689 (12), 1120 (6)
 Removal of unsatisfactory
 church-school officers, 233
 (6b)
 Reports to, 118, 123-25, 130,
 140-42, 146 (3), 150 (3),
 164, 206, 215, 222 (16), 267
 (8), 270, 278, 288, 312, 352
 (22), 365, 370, 374, 721
 Secretary. *See* Recording Stew-
 ard
 Special session, 139, 154
 Transfer of local churches, 28
 (note), 28, 532
 Trials, 973-77
 Trustees, 138 (3), 153 (3), 155
 (7), 155 (8), 167-90
See also Local church; Official
 Board

Questions of law. *See* Decisions
 on questions of law

Quorum:
 Board of Education, 1330, 1333
 (1)
 Board of Publication, 1130
 Conference Board of Education,
 1443

Quorum, cont'd:
 Council on World Service and
 Finance, 1118
 General Conference, 506
 General executive committee,
 1175
 Jurisdiction Woman's Society of
 Christian Service, 1255 (6)
 Jurisdictional Board of Edu-
 cation, 1432
 Jurisdictional Board of Temp-
 erance, 1530
 Jurisdictional Conference, 521

Quota, bishops, 439, 441

R

Race relations, 26, 2013, 2020
 (III B), 2026

Race Relations Sunday, 250 (3),
 1340, 1356 (3)

Race, The Methodist Church
 and (resolution), 2026

Racial groups, 1233, 1238 (1,
 5), 1248 (1)

Radio. *See* Television, Radio,
 and Film Commission

Raffles, 272

Rally Day, Church School, 250
 (2), 296 (1f)

Ratio distribution of funds:
 Conference benevolences, 794-
 95, 804

Fellowship of Suffering and
 Service, 763

General Administration Fund,
 766, 768

Local church, 267 (7), 282 (4),
 771, 823, 1624

Methodist Youth Fund, 1413
 (2)

Ministerial support, 771, 823,
 1624

Week of Dedication, 760 (2, 5)
 Woman's Society of Christian
 Service, 282 (4), 1260

World service, 737 (4), 742,
 745, 748

World service and conference
 benevolences, 795, 804

Ratio of representation, 7, 12.
See also Delegates under ap-
 propriate organization

INDEX

Readmission, located minister,
 376, 379, 432 (8), 651 (34),
 993 (b), 1630 (15)

**Real estate. *See* Building; Prop-
 erty**

**Reception into Annual Confer-
 ence. *See* Admission of
 preachers**

**Reception into church member-
 ship, 107-12, 128-29, 1913-
 16**

Affiliate, 112, 1916
 Baptism, 102, 107, 111, 127-28,
 1910-12. *See also* Baptism

Central Conference authority,
 565

Certificate of, 352 (26). *See*
also Certificate: Membership;
 Certificate: Transfer

Chaplain, 108
 Children, 129, 1915

Congregation, presence of, 107-
 9, 1914-15

From other denominations, 111-
 12

General Conference authority,
 8 (1)

New local church, 155 (3-4)
 Preparatory, 127-28, 1913

Profession of faith, 105, 107-8,
 111, 129, 149 (2), 155 (4),
 222 (3), 352 (4, 26)

Qualifications for, 8 (1), 94,
 101-2, 107-9, 111-12, 129,
 565, 1913-16

Record of, 131, 352 (23)
 Report of, 130, 149 (2), 352
 (22b, 28)

Rostoral, 124-25, 977, 1916

Ritual, 1913-16

Training for, 107, 129, 222
 (13), 241, 362 (4, 22e),
 1396, 1418

Transfer, 110-22, 126, 128, 155
 (3), 352 (4), 602 (1), 1916

Visitation evangelism, 222 (11-
 12)

Vows, 102, 107-9, 111, 125,
 1913-16

Youth, 1915

Recognition, ritual for:
 Choristers, 1929

Church-school officers and
 teachers, 1928

Recognized public accountant,
 729

Record blanks, official. *See*
 Forms

Recording secretary:
 Appointment of, episcopal, 432
 (4)

Board of Evangelism, 1470,
 2136

Board of Hospitals and Homes,
 1554 (1), 2142

Board of Lay Activities, 1497,
 1503, 2137

Board of Missions, 1174, 2115

Board of Social and Economic
 Relations, 1543, 2141

Board of Temperance, 1525
 (1), 2139

Conference Board of Educa-
 tion, 1444

Conference Commission on
 World Service and Finance,
 792

Conference Woman's Society of
 Christian Service, 1256 (3)

Council on World Service and
 Finance, 1117, 2111

District Woman's Society of
 Christian Service, 1257 (4)

Division of National Missions,
 1212, 2117

Division of World Missions,
 1201, 2116

Joint Section of Education and
 Cultivation, 1269, 2120

Jurisdiction Woman's Society
 of Christian Service, 1255
 (4)

Jurisdictional Board of Edu-
 cation, 1432

Jurisdictional Board of Tem-
 perance, 1530

National Conference of Meth-
 odist Youth, 1404 (3), 1405
 (2), 2131

Woman's Division of Christian
 Service, 1243, 2118

Recording steward, 140, 143
 (12), 145 (4), 197, 1024

Records:
 Annual Conference, 529, 656-
 63, 672, 674, 676, 729, 746
 (3), 1629

Board of Ministerial Training
 and Qualifications, 674

Board of Publication, 1131

Central Conference, 549, 567

Co-ordinating Council, 1112,
 1115 (1)

Discontinued church, 188 (2)

Records, cont'd:

District Conference, 691
 File of Pastors and Church Officials, 1120 (8)
 Judicial administration, 1022-24
 Judicial Council, 918, 2001
 Local-church. *See below* Records, local-church
 Trustees of Annual Conference, 711 (5)
 Trustees of The Methodist Church, 708

Records, local-church:

Audit, annual, 270
 Baptisms and marriages, 128, 352 (24)
 Church school, 233 (4)
 Committee on Records and History, 145 (4), 196, 689 (12)
 Financial secretary, 267 (3), 269
 Membership, 112, 118, 121-32, 352 (22-28)
 Membership and constituency, 278 (1)
 Organization meeting for church, 155 (3)
 Pastor's, 352 (22-28)
 Quarterly Conference, 140-41, 145 (4), 148, 154, 196-97
 Recording steward, 145 (4)
 Treasurer, 266-70
 Trustees, 164

Records and History, Committee on, 145 (4), 689**Recreation, 145 (10), 235, 241, 1396****Recreational Life, Committee on Fellowship and, 145 (10), 235****Recruitment for church vocations, 145 (9), 146 (1-2), 149 (1), 352 (20), 362 (15g), 670, 676, 1189, 1252 (4a), 1364, 1372 (4), 1375, 1415 (1), 1564****Register, membership. See Rolls, membership****Registrar (Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications), 669 (2), 672, 674, 675****Relief institutions, 1220****Relief, overseas. See Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief****Religion and the Public Schools (Resolution), 2028****Religion, Articles of, pages 5-6, 61-87****Religion in American Life, Inc., 1599, 2158****Religion in Life, 1133, 1143, 2113****Religious education. See Education****Religious Life, Executive Committee, 1365 (2)****Relinquishment of pension claim, 1626****Remittance of funds, 738, 745-46, 785, 801-2, 804-5, 823****Advance specials, 149 (3), 759 (3), 761 (6), 805****Basic salary, 827 (4)****Conference benevolences, 804****Conference claimants, 823, 1624****District superintendent's support, 801-2, 823****Episcopal Fund, 772, 805, 823****Fellowship of Suffering and Service, 763, 805****General Administration Fund, 768, 805****Interdenominational Co-operation Fund, 778, 805****Lay Employees Pension Fund contributions, 1653 (3)****Local church, 147, 149 (3), 267 (5-7), 268, 282 (4), 802, 804, 823, 1413 (2), 1624, 1646 (1), 1656 (4a)****Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 805, 1312 (2)****Methodist Youth Fund, 1413 (2)****Minimum salary fund, 823****Ministers Reserve Pension Fund contributions, 1624, 1645-46, 1656 (3-4)****Television Ministry Fund, 764 (6), 805****Week of Dedication, 760 (5), 805****Woman's Society of Christian Service, 282 (4), 1250****World service, 738, 745-46, 804-5****Remittance of funds, cont'd:**
World service and conference benevolences, 147, 268, 804**Remodeling and repair, 157 (2), 180, 723, 1235 (1, 4), 1236 (1, 5), 1237 (2)****Removal by Quarterly Conference (names from membership roll), 125****Renewal of license to preach, 304, 307, 310, 314, 320, 690, 695 (2)****Reports to:**
Advance Committee, 759 (4), 760 (3)**Agencies, administrative, 362 (10)****Annual Church Conference, 198****Annual Conference, 131 (2), 148, 250, 352 (28), 362 (10-13), 365, 577, 630, 646, 649-51, 672, 674, 691, 771 (5), 516 (2), 738, 760 (6), 761 (3-5), 763, 764 (5), 786, 793-96, 798-99, 801, 807, 811-12, 829-30, 1254 (7), 1296 (1), 1442, 1449, 1550 (2)****Beneficiary of trust fund, 708, 711 (5)****Board of Missions, 608, 1188****Board of Pensions, 1658 (9, 13)****Board of Publication, 1139****Board of Trustees of Annual Conference, 711 (4)****Board of Trustees of The Methodist Church, 707****Central Conference, 567, 656****Commission on Deaconess Work, 1254 (7)****Commission on Education, 245 (6)****Commission on Membership and Evangelism, 221 (4)****Commission on Town and Country Work, 1231 (3)****Conference Board of Pensions, 1611 (7)****Conference Deaconess Board, 1254 (4a)****Co-ordinating Council, 1107, 1115****Council of Bishops, 1115****Council on World Service and Finance, 657, 737 (2, 6, 13), 739, 765, 775-76, 781-82, 806, 1112, 1115****Reports to, cont'd:****Department of Ministerial Education, 672****District Committee on Ministerial Qualifications, 306 (3)****District Conference, 312, 689, 690, 695 (5), 716 (2), 721****District superintendent, 721****District Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1257 (5)****Division of National Missions, 1221, 1222****Field Committee, 1202 (4)****General Conference, 530, 549, 559, 708, 737 (1, 4, 5, 13), 739, 742-43, 747, 749, 759 (4), 766, 770-71, 774 (2), 778, 782, 1111-12, 1115, 1120 (1), 1176 (9), 1376, 1595 (2)****Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230 (4)****Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1285 (1)****Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1434, 1437****Jurisdictional Conference, 526, 529, 656, 1176 (9)****Jurisdictional Deaconess Association, 1254 (7)****Official Board, 215, 221 (4), 266-67, 278, 288, 1543****Pastor's report to Annual Conference, 1413 (2)****Quarterly Conference, 118, 123-25, 130, 140-42, 146 (3), 150 (3), 164, 206, 215, 222 (16), 267 (8), 270, 278, 288, 312, 352 (22), 365, 370, 374, 721****Rescue missions, 1220****Research and Survey, Committee on, 1304****Research and Survey, Department of, 1215, 1233, 2117****Reserve delegates. See Delegates under appropriate organization****Reserve Pension Fund. See Ministers Reserve Pension Fund****Reserve Pensions, Committee on, 651 (4a), 1656 (4a, 6)****Residences of church members, 352 (25)**

INDEX

- Resignation of bishop**, 435 (2)
- Resolutions of General Conference**, 512, 2021-32
- Restrictive Rules**, 9, 10 (2), 1607
- Retired:**
 Approved supply pastor, 651 (43), 1630 (16), 1631
 Bishop, 435-38, 559 (2), 770, 772, 774-76, 2101
 Deaconess, 1252 (9), 1253 (2b), 1254 (3)
 Minister, 138 (1), 153 (1), 367-71, 379, 435 (2), 559 (2), 647, 651 (35, 42), 668, 687, 1610 (6), 1617, 1619, 1630, 2100
 Missionary, 1622, 1631 (9), 1637
- Rhodesia Conference**, 1860 (4), 1874, 2103
- Richmond Area**, 2102
- Rights of local-church organizations**, 214, 233 (6a)
- Rings, wedding**, 1917
- Rio Grande Conference**, 1828, 2102
- Ritual**, 82, 1908-40, 2100
 Admission to membership in Annual Conference, 1924
 Baptism:
 Adult, 1912
 Children, youth, 1911
 Infant, 1910
 Breaking ground for church, 1931
 Burial of the dead:
 Adult, 1918
 Child, 1919
 Central Conference, 571
 Commissioning of missionaries and deaconesses, 1927
 Consecration:
 Bishop, 1922
 Deaconess, 1925
 Director of Christian education, 1926
 Cornerstone laying, 1932
 Dedication:
 Church, 1933
 Church-school building, 1936
 Educational building, 1938
 Home, 1939
- Ritual, cont'd:**
 Hospital, 1937
 Memorial, 1940
 Organ, 1935
 Parish house, 1936
 General Conference authority over, 8 (6)
 History of, pages 5-6
 Licensing persons to preach, 1923
 Lord's Supper, 1908-9
 Matrimony, 1917
 Opening of a church for worship, 1934
 Ordination:
 Deacon, 1920
 Elder, 1921
 Organizing a church, 1930
 Reception of members:
 Adults, 1914
 Affiliate, 1916
 By transfer, 1916
 Children, youth, 1915
 Preparatory, 1913
 Recognition:
 Choristers, 1929
 Church-school officers and teachers, 1928
- Rock River Conference**, 1805, 2102
- Rocky Mountain Conference**, 1847, 2102
- Roll Call**, 506, 521, 645
- Rolls (local church):**
 Affiliate membership, 112, 132
 Committee on, 278 (1)
 Constituency, 128, 132, 278 (1)
 Membership, 121-25, 129, 130-32, 155 (5), 222 (16), 278 (1)
 Preparatory membership, 127-29, 132
- Rotation in office**, 210, 1104, 1326
- Rules. See General Rules; Restrictive Rules**
- Rural parish**, 302 (15), 2030
- Rural work. See Town and country work**
- Russia Mission**, 1864 (9), 1879, 2103
- Ryukyu Islands (Okinawa), mission work**, 1884

INDEX

- S**
- Sabbatical leave**, 364, 432 (9), 647, 651 (41), 668, 1252 (8), 1618 (2f)
- Sacraments**, 76-78, 101-2
 Administration of, 352 (2), 362 (15h)
 Authority to administer, 318, 329, 392, 402, 1374 (4)
 Ritual for, 1908-12
See also Baptism; Lord's Supper
- St. Louis Area**, 2102
- St. Louis Conference**, 1829, 2102
- Salary:**
 Basic plan, 801, 827
 Bishop, 769-70, 772, 774 (2), 775-76. *See also* Bishop: Support
 Claim of pastor, 365, 325
 Conference agency personnel, 812
 District superintendent, 801-2. *See also* District Superintendent: Support
 Methodist Publishing House executives, 1132
 Minimum, 826, 1295
 Minister in special appointment, 812, 830
 Pastor. *See* Pastor: Salary
 Withholding from, 774 (3), 1646 (1), 1656 (4a), 1658 (3b)
 World service agency personnel, 1120 (2)
See also Ministerial support
- San Francisco Area**, 2102
- Santiago Area**, 2103
- Sarawak Conference**, 2007 (1)
- Sarawak Mission**, 1870 (1), 1881, 2103
- Scholarships:**
 Crusade, 760 (4)
 National Methodist, 250 (4), 1353, 2127
 Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1581 (4e)
- School:**
 Accreditation of. *See* Accreditation
- School, cont'd:**
 Appointment to:
 Faculty, 432 (4-5)
 Student, 431 (6), 432 (7), 651 (44), 668, 671, 1618 (2e)
 Building, ritual for dedication of, 1938
 Missions, 257 (2)
 Theological. *See* Schools of theology
See also College; Educational institutions; Student
- Schools of theology:**
 Appointment to:
 Faculty, 432 (4-5)
 Student, 432 (7). *See also* School: appointment to
 Approved supply pastors in, 316 (1), 317 (1), 318 (1), 327
 Graduates of, 324, 342, 651 (31a), 669 (1)
 Local preachers in, 307 (1), 327
 Methodist. *See* Methodist schools of theology
 Missionary education, 1275, 1287
 Students in, 149 (1e), 316 (1), 318 (1b), 323-27, 342, 651 (24-31), 674 (1). *See also* Student: Theological
 Surveys, 1233
- Scouting**, 244 (5), 292 (3)
- Scriptures, Holy**, 222 (10), 241, 345 (9), 1396, 1598, 1920-24. *See also* Bible
- Seamen, Preachers for**, 432 (4)
- Secondary and Higher Education, Department of**, 1351 (3), 1353, 2127
- Secretarial Council:**
 Board of Education, 1336 (3)
 Board of Missions, 1280
 Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion and Publication, 1579
 Interboard Commission on Christian Social Relations, 1519
 Interboard Commission on the Local Church, 1163
- Secretaries, Council of**, 1115 (3), 1595, 2016 (3)

Secretary:

- Agencies, conference, 812
- Annual Conference. *See* Conference secretary
- Appointment of, episcopal, 432 (4)
- Bishop's, 1659
- Board of Missions, 1179, 1180 (2)
- Central Conference, 445, 549, 560
- Children's work, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Christian social relations, 1256 (4), 1256 (3), 1452, 1532
- Church-school, 232
- Commission on Worship, 1568 (2)
- Conference. *See* Conference secretary
- Conference, of evangelism, 1231 (1), 1296
- Conference missionary, 755 (2), 1231 (1), 1291, 1295
- Conference Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1583 (3)
- District Conference, 691, 1024
- Executive. *See* Executive secretary
- Financial, 212, 262, 266-70, 1404 (3)
- General. *See* General secretary
- General Conference, 501, 560 (2), 2107
- Jurisdictional Board of Missions, 1292
- Jurisdictional Conference, 435 (2), 530 (1), 1024, 2109
- Lay activities (jurisdictional), 1500
- Literature and publications, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Local church, 118, 140, 143 (12), 145 (4), 155 (3), 196-97, 212, 221 (2), 232, 256, 262, 276
- Membership, 118, 212
- Missionary education, 1255 (4), 1256 (3), 1283
- Missionary personnel, 675, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Missionary service in foreign fields, 1255 (4)
- Missionary service in home fields, 1255 (4)
- Official Board, 186 (2)
- Promotion, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Quarterly Conference, 140, 143 (12), 145 (4), 1024

Secretary, cont'd:

- Spiritual life, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Status of women, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Student work, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Supply work, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1581 (3)
- Temperance (jurisdictional), 1531
- Trial court, 1022-24
- Wesleyan Service Guild, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)
- Youth work, 1255 (4), 1256 (3)

Section, definition, 783 (1b)

Section of Church Extension,

- 1214, 1235-37, 2127
- Annual Conference program, 761, 1303
- Applications for aid, 1235 (5)
- Department of Architecture, 1235 (11), 1237
- Department of Finance and Field Service, 1235 (11), 1236
- Donations, 1235 (3, 4, 6-9)
- Endowments, 1235 (3)
- Loan funds, 1235 (3, 4)
- Mortgages, 1235 (6)

Section of Education and

- Cultivation, Woman's, 1249**
- (1-2), 1269, 1276 (2). *See* also Joint Section of Education and Cultivation

Section of Home Missions,

- 1214-33, 2117
- City or district missionary societies, 155 (1), 173 (2), 432 (4), 761 (4), 1218-27, 1229 (6), 1295
- Conference Commission on Town and Country Work, 1229 (2), 1231
- Department of City Work, 1215, 1217-28, 2117
- Department of Goodwill Industries, 432 (4), 1215, 1232, 2117
- Department of Research and Surveys, 1215, 1233, 1304, 2117
- Department of Town and

Section of Home Missions,

- cont'd:*
- Country Work, 1215, 1229-31, 2117
- Ethnic groups, 1215 (2)
- Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1229 (7), 1230, 2133. *For details see* Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work
- Membership, 1215 (3)
- Minority language groups, 1215 (2)
- See also* Division of National Missions

Securities, 729. *See also* Investments

Segregation, racial, 26 (note), 2013, 2020 (III B), 2026

Selective Service exemption of candidates for ministry, 1372 (4)

Seminaries, theological. *See* Schools of theology

Seminars:

- Public relations, 1589 (2)
- Worship, 1569 (2)

Senate, University. *See* University Senate

- Service:**
- Approved, for pension credit, 1618 (1-5)
- Christian. *See* Woman's Division of Christian Service; Woman's Society of Christian Service
- Community, 248 (4), 278 (9), 282 (2), 1229 (1)
- Records, ministers', 661
- Suffering and. *See* Fellowship of Suffering and Service
- Worship. *See* Worship

Settlement work, 1220

Shantung Conference, 1861 (7), 1876, 2103

Shipping and Service Department (Council on World Service and Finance), 1120 (9)

Sind, 2007 (2)

Singapore Area, 2103

Small churches, 208, 219, 231, 234, 235, 244 (1), 282 (5), 362 (15a), 826

Social and economic justice, 362 (15g)

Social and Economic Relations, Board of, 1546-50. *For details see* Board of Social and Economic Relations (general); Conference Board of Social and Economic Relations; Jurisdictional Board of Social and Economic Relations

Social and Economic Relations, Committee on, 276, 278 (11)

Social and governmental agencies, 1231 (2)

Social work, 1220

Social Creed, 2020

Social Relations, Conference Board of Christian, 678

Social Relations, Commission on Christian, 219, 276, 1550 (3)

Society of Christian Service. *See* Woman's Society of Christian Service

Solicitation of funds. *See* Appeal, financial

South Carolina Conference (C), 1777, 2102

South Carolina Conference (SE), 1752, 2102

- South Central Jurisdiction, 26**
- Annual Conferences, etc., 1815-33
- Areas; episcopal, 2102
- College of Bishops, 2105
- Episcopal visitation in Latin America, 2005 (3)
- Map, page 494
- Officers, 2109

South Dakota Conference, 1806, 2102

- South Georgia Conference,** 1753, 2102
- South Germany Conference,** 1863 (8), 1877, 2103
- South India Conference, 1871** (10), 1882, 2103
- Southeast Africa Conference,** 1860 (5), 1874, 2103
- Southeastern Asia:**
Annual Conferences, etc., 1869-70
Areas, episcopal, 2103
Central Conference, 1881
Map, page 517
- Southeastern Jurisdiction, 26**
Annual Conferences, etc. 1740-57
Areas, episcopal, 2102
College of Bishops, 2105
Map, page 494
Officers, 2109
- Southern Asia:**
Annual Conferences, etc., 1871-72
Areas, episcopal, 2103
Central Conference, 1882, 2004 (4), 2006 (2), 2011 (2a).
Map, page 516
- Southern California - Arizona Conference, 1848, 2102**
- Southern Congo Conference,** 1860 (6), 1874, 2103
- Southern Illinois Conference,** 1807, 2102
- Southwest Conference, 1778,** 2102
- Southwest Germany Conference, 1863 (9), 1877, 2103,**
- Southwest Missouri Conference, 1830, 2102**
- Southwest Texas Conference,** 1831, 2102
- Spain Mission, 1864 (10), 1875,** 2103
- Special appeal. See Appeal,** financial
- Special appointment, minister in:**
Annuity claim of, 651 (15), 1618 (2c, d, 4), 1623 (7), 1627 (1b), 1645 (8, 10)
Appointment of, 432 (4-6)
Conference journal listing, 812, 830, 1618 (4)
Definition, 2100
Quarterly Conference membership, 138 (1)
Reception of members by, 108
Salary, report on, 812, 830
- Special days, 296**
Bible Sunday, 278 (8), 296 (2f)
Children's Day, 250 (6), 296 (2b)
Church school, 233 (6d), 250
Commitment Day, 278 (3), 296 (2e), 1528
Conference Board of Education, 250 (2), 1450
Determination of, 737 (5), 747, 1115 (4)
Evangelistic use, 222 (4)
Golden Cross Enrollment Sunday, 296 (3a), 651 (16), 1559 (1)
Hospitals and Homes Week, 296 (3a), 1559 (1)
Laymen's Day, 296 (2c), 1493
Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 296 (1d), 1356 (3)
National Family Week, 250 (5), 296 (2a)
Race Relations Sunday, 250 (3), 296 (1b), 1340, 1356 (3)
Rally Day, Church School, 250 (2), 296 (1f)
Retired Ministers Day, 296 (3b), 1610 (6)
Rural Life Sunday, 296 (3c)
Student Recognition Day, 296 (2a)
Universal Bible Sunday, 278 (8), 296 (2f)
Week of Dedication, 296 (1c), 780. *For details see Week of Dedication*
World Order Sunday, 278 (7), 296 (2d), 1543
World Service Sunday, 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5), 296 (1a)
World-wide Communion Sunday, 296 (1e), 763

- Special-gift voucher, 746, 759** (3), 760 (6), 763, 764 (4), 1314
- Special gifts, 149 (3), 257 (5),** 735, 738, 744-46, 750 (1), 752, 757-62, 805, 1409 (2)
- Special offerings, 747. See also** Special days; Special gifts
- Specials. See** Special gifts
- Spokesmen, unauthorized, 512**
- Stabilization fund (pensions),** 1611 (13)
- Standards:**
Architecture of churches, 1414
Camping, 1401 (4)
Director of Christian education, 1396, 1401 (2), 1451 (1)
Educational institutions, 1382-91
Hospitals and homes, 1556, 1558 (2), 1563, 1565-66
Minister of music, 1396, 1401 (3), 1451 (1)
Wesley Foundations, Commission on, 1367
See also Ministerial education
- State accrediting agency, 307** (1), 318 (1)
- State laws. See** Laws, local
- Statistical blanks, 131-32, 141,** 145 (4), 154, 233 (4), 362 (15e), 1120 (6), 1155, 1611 (7). *See also* Forms
- Statistical Office, 657, 765,** 1120 (5), 2111
- Statistician, Annual Conference, 629, 651 (1, 5-6),** 662, 1629 (4)
- Statistics, 352 (28), 362 (13),** 651 (45), 1120 (5), 2199
- Steward:**
Abstinence, 207, 2023
Character 207-8
Communion, 143 (11)
Definition, 2100
District, 143 (3), 687, 797, 802
Honorary, 211
Local-church, 93 (2), 138 (3),
- Steward, cont'd:**
143 (1), 153 (3), 155 (6), 155 (7), 207-11
Recording, 140, 143 (12), 145 (4), 197
Rotation in office, 210
- Stewards, District Board of,** 716 (2), 797, 802
- Stewardship, Christian, 262-63, 731, 1492, 1512-14**
Commission. *See* Commission on Stewardship and Finance
Cultivation of, 257 (7), 262-63, 292 (2), 352 (19), 362 (15g), 689 (7), 753 (4), 1492
Director of, 143 (10), 262-63
Education in, 753 (4)
Literature, 753 (4)
Tithing, 753 (4), 1514
- Strangers, visitation of, 215 (5)**
- Structure of Methodism Overseas. See** Commission on the Structure of Methodism Overseas
- Student:**
Appointment to attend school, episcopal, 431 (6), 432 (7), 651 (44)
Approved supply pastor, 307 (1), 316 (1), 317 (1), 318 (1b), 651 (21)
College, 307 (1), 318 (1), 1363-70
Commission, National Methodist, 1326, 1404 (2), 1405, 1406 (2)
Co-operation of youth and student staff, 1405
Counseling, 352 (20)
Director of student work, 1370, 1448
Evangelistic work, 1364 (3)
Ministerial, 362 (9), 431 (6), 432 (7), 647, 651 (44), 668, 671, 673-74, 1380 (1)
Missionary education, 1276 (2)
National Conference of Methodist Youth. *See* National Conference of Methodist Youth
Pretheological, 307 (1), 318 (1)
Religious activities, 233 (6f), 1364-70, 1429, 1436
Representatives on agencies, 1172 (5), 1326, 1443, 1468
Theological, 307 (1), 316 (1), 317 (1), 318 (1), 323-27,

INDEX

- Student, cont'd:**
342, 393 (1), 403 (1), 651 (25-26). *See also* Methodist schools of theology; Schools of theology
See also Methodist Student Movement; Wesley Foundation
- Student Day, Methodist,** 250 (4), 296 (1d), 1356 (3)
- Student Loan Fund,** 250 (4), 1358, 2127
- Student Religious Work, Inter-conference Commission on,** 1370, 1448
- Study and Recommend Action Concerning the Jurisdictional System, Commission to,** 2013
- Study, sabbatical leave to,** 364
- Suffering and Service. *See* Fellowship of Suffering and Service**
- Sumatra Conference,** 1870 (2), 1881, 2007 (1), 2103
- Sunday Evening Fellowship, Methodist,** 243
- Sunday League of America,** 432 (4)
- Sunday school,** 243, 244 (3), 1396. *See also* Church school
- Sunday Service of John Wesley,** 1902, 1906
- Superannuated. *See* Retired**
- Superintendent:**
Bureau, 783 (2e)
Church-school, 143 (7-8), 145 (9), 209, 221 (1), 232-33, 246-49, 256, 362 (10, 15e), 687, 1449
City mission, 432 (4)
District. *See* District superintendent
Division (church school), 143 (8), 232
General. *See* Bishop
Goodwill Industries, 432 (4)
Membership cultivation (church school), 143 (8), 232
- Superintendent, cont'd:**
Mission, 608-9, 615, 939, 1206, 1216, 1238 (3)
Provisional Annual Conference, 608-9
Youth Division (church school), 145 (9)
- Supernumerary minister,** 138 (1), 153 (1), 365, 647, 651 (40), 668, 687, 1630 (14), 2100
- Supply pastor,** 315 (2), 362 (3), 432 (8), 827 (1, 2), 1120 (8). *See also* Approved supply pastor; Pastor
- Support. *See* Ministerial support**
- Surety bond. *See* Bond**
- Surrender of ministerial office,** 380, 961. *See also* Location of minister; Withdrawal
- Survey:**
Community (local church), 155 (1), 222 (2), 257 (3), 1233
Conference Commission on Town and Country Work, 1231 (2)
Department of Research and, 1215, 1233, 2117
Statistical Office, 1120 (5)
- Suspension, judicial. *See* Judicial administration**
- Sustentation fund,** 828
- Sweden Conference,** 1863 (10), 1879, 2103
- Switzerland Conference,** 1863 (11), 1875, 2103
- Symbols, Christian,** 188 (1)
- Syracuse Area,** 2102

T

- Taiwan Mission,** 1862 (3), 1876, 2005 (5), 2007 (3), 2103
- Teacher:**
Central Conference, 573
Church-school, 231, 233 (3, 6), 246, 248-49, 257 (5), 1398 (2), 1928
Minister appointed as, 432 (4-5)

INDEX

- Television Ministry Fund,** 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 750 (1), 764, 785, 805
- Television Ministry Fund Committee,** 764 (2)
- Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1581-83, 2150**
Annual Conference commission, 755 (2), 764 (2), 1583
Budget, 1581 (5)
Co-operation with other agencies, 1417 (2), 1509 (8)
Elections, 1581 (2)
General secretary, 764 (1), 1579, 1581 (3), 1595 (1), 2150
Headquarters, 1581
Incorporation, 1581
Interagency Commission on Cultivation, Promotion, and Publication, 1576-79, 2147
Interdenominational relations, 1581 (4d, 6)
Jurisdictional commission, 1582
Membership, 1581 (2)
President, 1581 (3), 2150
Purpose, 1581 (4)
Support, 1581 (5)
Treasurer, 1581 (3), 2150
Vice-president, 1581 (3), 2150
- Temperance:**
Board of, 1521-35. *For details see* Board of Temperance (general); Conference Board of Temperance; Jurisdictional Board of Temperance
Committee on (local church), 276, 278 (3), 1529
District director, 1534
Education, Joint Committee on, 1416
Promotion of, 352 (19), 362 (15g), 432 (5)
Resolutions, 2022-23
See also Abstinence
- Temporal economy,** 215 (1, 6), 362 (1), 431 (1), 773. *See also* Finance; Property
- Tennessee Conference (C),** 1779, 2008 (1), 2102
- Tennessee Conference (SE),** 1754, 2102
- Tenure in office:**
Agency member, 1104
- Tenure in office, cont'd:**
Bishop, Central Conference, 445, 558, 559 (2)
Board of Publication member, 1129
District superintendent, 432 (3)
Steward (local church), 210
- Termination:**
Annual Conference membership: Discontinuance, 310, 321, 328, 651 (27)
Judicial procedure, 937, 950-52
Location, 310, 374-79. *See also* Location of minister
Withdrawal, 380-82
Approved supply pastor's approval, 314, 320
Church membership, 123-25, 974, 983
- Texas Conference (C),** 1780, 2102
- Texas Conference (SC),** 1832, 2102
- Theological education, director, of,** 1372 (2-4), 1415 (2-3), 1418, 2127. *See also* Ministerial education; Schools of theology; Student: Theological
- Theological schools. *See* Schools of theology**
- Tidings literature,** 2136
- Time limits, ministerial studies,** 307 (2), 317-18, 330
- Tithing,** 753 (4), 1514. *See also* Stewardship
- Title to property,** 167, 169
- Titles of executives,** 783 (2), 1120 (3)
- Tobacco,** 306 (5), 322 (5), 695 (2), 2022
- Together,** 278 (8), 288, 1132, 1144, 1609 (2), 2113. *See also* General church periodicals
- Town and Country, Church and Community Co-operation in (resolution),** 2030

Town and Country Work:
 Conference Commission on, 1229 (2), 1231, 1306
 Department of, 1215, 1229-31, 2117
 Interboard Committee on, 1230, 2123. *For details see* Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work
 National Conference on, 1229 (7), 1230 (35)

Tracts, appointment to distribute, 432 (5)

Training for Church Membership, Joint Committee on Materials for, 1418

Training schools, 1398 (2), 1408, 1426 (1), 1429

Transcript of credits, 326-27, 344

Transfer:
 Annual Conference, to another jurisdiction, 26 (note)
 Annual Conference member, 431 (7), 602 (2), 603, 638, 647, 651 (33, 36-37), 671, 1644 (6), 1645 (2-3), 1646 (2-4), 1656 (2b, 3, 4b)
 Annuity claims involved in. *See* Annuity
 Church member, 110-22, 126, 128, 155 (3), 602 (1), 1916
 Local church, to another, jurisdiction, 26 (note), 28, 532, 651 (18c), 1768 (note), 1773 (note), 2009
 Local preacher, 308-9

Translation of General Conference legislation, 575

Transportation Office, 765, 1120 (7), 2111

Travel, (through district, conference, or connection), 362 (1), 431 (10), 432 (5), 435 (1, 3), 436 (1-2), 773

Travel expenses:
 Bishop, 427, 770, 773
 Delegates, 602 (3), 605
 District superintendent, 801
 Pastor, 148, 829. *See also* Moving expenses

Traveling preacher, 21, 321-85
 Admission. *See* Admission of preachers
 Appointment, 362 (3), 431 (4), 432. *For details see* Appointment of preachers
 Conference relations, 22, 364-82, 635-39, 646-48, 668
 Definition, 2100
 Location, 374-82. *For details see* Location of minister
 Membership in conferences, 21, 24, 138 (1), 153 (1), 687
 Mission, 385, 1238 (6)
 Requirement to receive appointment, 432 (9)
 Supervision, 362 (2)
 Transfer, 431 (7), 638. *For details see* Transfer: Annual Conference member
 Trial, 9 (3), 570, 636, 921, 931-44, 950-52, 1045-49. *For details see* Trial.
See also Minister

Treasurer:
 Advance, The, 762 (2)
 Agencies, conference, 737 (8), 746 (4), 804, 807, 808
 Annual Conference, 803-8. *For details see* Conference treasurer
 Appointment of, episcopal, 432 (4)
 Association of Methodist Historical Societies, 1591 (3a), 2152
 Board of Education, 1413 (2), 2126
 Board of Evangelism, 1470, 2136
 Board of Hospitals and Homes, 1554 (1), 2142
 Board of Lay Activities, 1497, 2137
 Board of Missions, 1180 (2), 1182, 1183, 1188, 1281 (1), 2115
 Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1548, 2141
 Board of Temperance, 1525 (1), 2139
 Bonding, 729, 739, 792, 807, 1188, 1333 (2), 1433, 1446
 Church. *See* Treasurer: Local-church
 Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, 751, 2148
 Conference. *See* Conference treasurer

Treasurer, cont'd:
 Conference Board of Education, 1414, 1446, 1449
 Conference Board of Lay Activities, 1503
 Conference Commission on World Service and Finance. *See* Conference treasurer
 Conference Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1583 (3)
 Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1256 (3), 1413 (2)
 Council on World Service and Finance, 738-39. *For details see* Council on World Service and Finance: Treasurer
 District, 802
 Division of National Missions, 1212, 1280, 2117
 Division of World Missions, 1201, 1280, 2116
 Episcopal Fund. *See* Council on World Service and Finance: Treasurer
 Institutions, conference, 804, 807-8
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1269
 Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1255 (4)
 Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1432-33
 Jurisdictional Conference, 2109
 Local-church, 162 (3), 209, 212, 262, 266-70, 759 (3), 760 (5), 802, 804, 823, 1413 (2), 1624 (3), 1646 (1), 1656 (4a)
 National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1404 (3)
 Television, Radio, and Film Commission, 1581 (3), 2150
 Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1243, 1250, 1269, 1280, 1413 (2), 2118
 World service and conference benevolences (local church), 268

Treasury:
 Basic salary, 827 (4)
 Central, 732, 735, 737 (1), 745-46, 759 (3), 1596 (3), 1597 (4). *See also* Council on World Service and Finance: Treasurer
 Conference. *See* Conference treasurer

Trial:
 Accusation, 921, 923, 926, 932-34, 936, 952, 958, 966, 969-72, 981-83. *See also* Trial: Charge; Trial: Complaint
 Annual Conference, 636, 936-37, 940-41, 944, 948-49, 951-52
 Appeals. *See* Appeals, judicial
 Approved supply pastor. *See* Trial: Local preacher
 Bishop, 910, 921-30, 950-52, 1041-43
 Central Conference, 570, 922, 930, 947, 952, 1042-43
 Charges, 921, 923-24, 926, 928, 930, 934-38, 940-41, 944, 948, 952, 958-59, 966, 969, 972, 981-83, 1001-5, 1009, 1012, 1014-15, 1022, 1032, 1048
 Church Committee of Investigation, 972
 College of Bishops, president or secretary of, 923-24
 Committee on Episcopacy, 926
 Complaint, 636, 947, 952, 964, 981-83. *See also* Trial: Accusation
 Conference Committee of Investigation, 923-24, 931, 932-34, 936, 939, 957
 Conference secretary, 925, 935, 937, 959, 1022-24, 1035, 1041-43
 Constitutional right, 9 (3)
 Council of Bishops to appoint president, 930
 Counsel, 924, 935-36, 1006-7
 Court, composition of, 924, 927, 935, 937, 959, 968, 973
 Deaconess, 960-68, 982, 1053-54
 District Committee of Investigation, 957-58
 Duty to testify, 1011
 Investigation, 923, 926, 930, 932-34, 936, 939-40, 958, 966, 972
 Judicial Council, appeal to, 925, 927, 930, 1033-34, 1041-43, 1045
 Jurisdictional Conference, 922, 925-26, 947, 952
 Local preacher, 957-65, 981, 1051-52
 Member of church, 969-77, 983, 1056-60
 Mission, 939, 946, 965
 New trial, 975-76, 1032, 1058
 Notice, 935, 947, 958-59, 1008-10, 1013, 1025, 1035, 1043, 1046-47, 1057-58

Trial, cont'd:

- Objections, 1015-16
- Offenses, 921, 923, 929, 932, 942-44, 947-49, 958, 960, 962-64, 966-71, 1001-5
- Penalty, 936, 925, 927-28, 935, 937-38, 959, 961, 964, 966, 974, 1032
- Pleading to charge, 1012
- Presiding officer, 925, 927, 930, 935, 937, 959, 973, 1012-15, 1017-19, 1021
- Provisional Annual Conference, 946, 965
- Records, 925, 935, 937, 941, 952, 959, 981-83, 1008, 1012, 1016, 1022-24, 1030
- Secretary of court, 925, 935, 937, 959, 1019, 1022
- Testimony, 1019-21, 1033
- Time and place, setting of, 924, 935, 966. *See also* Trial: Notice of
- Traveling preacher, 9 (3), 570, 636, 921, 931-44, 950-52, 1045-49
- Verdict, 925, 927, 935, 959, 974, 1014, 1032, 1045
- Witness, 923, 932, 972, 1010-11, 1017, 1020-21

Trial, preacher on. *See* Preacher on trial; *also* Admission of preachers; On trial

Trier of appeals (local church), 1056-58

Troy Conference, 1732

Trust clause in deeds, 167, 169, 174-75

Trust funds, 157 (3), 164-65, 302 (11), 535, 581 (4), 704-9, 711 (2-5), 729, 737 (13), 785, 1176 (7), 1183, 1184, 1252 (2), 1527 (2), 1557

Trustees:

- Abandoned church property, 706
- Age, 728
- Annual Conference, 176 (7), 178, 188, 190, 651 (4f), 706, 711-12, 716 (2), 1235 (7)
- Auditing and bonding, 729
- Circuit, 183-84
- Discontinued local church, 188, 706
- District, 687, 716 (2)
- Episcopal residence, 712
- Hospitals and homes, 728

Trustees, cont'd:

- Incorporation of charge, 176-77
- Institution, 728, 791, 1561 (2), 1563
- John Street Church, 2167
- Local church, 138 (3), 153 (3), 155 (7), 155 (8), 157-90, 180 (3), 207, 1235 (6)
- Merger of local churches, 186-87, 189 (1)
- Methodist Church, The, 703-9, 737 (13), 1116, 2162-65
- Methodist Episcopal Church, 704, 2163
- Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 704, 2164
- Methodist Protestant Church, 704, 2165
- Parsonage, 183-84, 713, 716 (2)
- Permanent Fund, 709
- Schools and other institutions, 728
- Trust clause in deeds, 174-75

Trusts, 164 (9), 165

Tunisia, 1864 (6)

Twelve, The, 222 (12)

U

Undergraduate courses for ministers. *See* Courses of study

Undergraduates, conference. *See* Preacher on trial

Uniform practices:

- Accounting classifications, 737 (6)
- Conference financial reports, 786
- Fiscal year, 737 (6), 738
- Journals of conferences, 530 (2), 658
- Organization of agencies, 783 (1)
- Personnel policies, 1120 (2)
- Titles of agency executives, 783 (2)

Union, Declaration of, pages 7-8, 1

Union, Plan of, 1-44

United affiliated autonomous churches, 605, 1884-85

United Christian Youth Movement, 1406 (1)

Uniting Conference, 45

Uniting of local churches. *See* Merger

University. *See* College

University Senate, 307 (1), 316 (1), 318 (1), 323-27, 342, 432 (7), 669-70, 673, 1355 (1), 1378 (3), 1382-91, 2129

Upper Mississippi Conference, 1781, 2102

Upper Room, The, 222 (10), 1472, 1485, 2021 (2), 2136

Urban Work, Committee on, 1305

Urban Work, Convocation on, 1228

Uruguay Conference, 1866 (4), 1878, 2103

Use of word "Methodist," 701

V

Vacancies, filling of, 1105-6. *See also* under names of agencies

Vacation schools, 243, 352 (22c), 689 (3)

Veterans Administration, chaplain, 432 (4), 1571-72

Virgin Islands, 1213

Virginia Conference, 1755, 2102

Visitation:

- Episcopal, 546, 560 (1), 593, 604, 773
- Evangelistic, 215 (5), 222 (6, 7, 11, 12)
- Pastoral, 125, 345 (15), 352 (3, 22f)

Visual education materials, 257 (1). *See also* Audio-visual

Vocation. *See* Christian: Vocation; *also* Conference Commission on Christian Vocations; Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations

Vote:

- By ballot, 146 (1), 278 (2), 501, 505, 518, 628, 695 (2-4), 901, 973, 1238 (4), 1432, 1507 (1)
- By orders (ministers and lay members), 24-25, 505 (2), 507
- Count, 377
- Prohibited to employee of agency, 1103
- Reserved to ministers, 22, 322, 341, 646

Vouchers:

- Bishop's travel, 773
- Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 1314
- Special gift, 352 (28), 746, 759 (3), 760 (6), 763, 764 (4), 1314
- Week of Dedication, 760 (6)

Vows, membership, 102, 107-9, 111, 125, 1913-16

W

War and peace, resolutions on, 2020 (III F), 2024

Washington Area, 2102

Washington Conference, 1782, 2102

Watch-night meetings, 352 (8)

Wedding ceremony, ritual for, 1917

Week of Dedication, 757, 760

- Budget, 760 (3-5)
- Committee, 750 (2), 760 (3-4)
- Expense, 760 (7)
- Fund, 732, 735, 738, 746 (2), 785
- History, 2016 (2)
- Quotas not to be set, 762 (1)
- Promotion, 750 (1), 752
- Remittance of offerings, 805
- Report to Quarterly Conference, 149 (3)
- Special-gift voucher, 760 (6)
- Sunday, Dedication, 760 (1)

Week of Prayer, Annual, 1272

Wesley Foundation, 1351 (1), 1364-69

Annual Conference control, 1367 (2)
Appeals for funds, 1368

- Wesley Foundation, cont'd:**
Board of Directors, 1367 (2)
Commission on Standards for, 1367
Promotion, 233 (6/), 362 (15e), 1429, 1442, 1448
Quadrennial emphasis, 2018 (2)
Reports, 1367-68
Support, 1367, 68
- Wesley, John:**
Historical statement, pages 3-6, 91
Ministerial standards, 302, 345
Sunday Service, 1902, 1906
- Wesleyan Service Guild, 282,**
1255 (1, 4), 1256 (1), 1257 (1)
- West China Conference, 2103,**
1861 (8), 1876
- West Indies, 1735**
- West Texas Conference, 1783,**
2102
- West Virginia Conference, 1733,**
2102
- West Wisconsin Conference,**
1808, 2102
- Western Jurisdiction, 26**
Annual Conference, etc., 1841-51
Areas, episcopal, 2102
College of Bishops, 2105
Map, page 494
Officers, 2109
- Western North Carolina Conference, 1756, 2102**
- White Cross. See Golden Cross**
- Widow and orphans:**
Bishop's, 769-70, 772, 774, 777
Minister's. See Ministers Reserve Pension Fund; Pension regulations
- Wills and Legacies, Committee on (local-church), 145 (12), 737 (11)**
- Wills, Bequests and Gifts, Committee on (general), 737 (11)**
- Wisconsin Area, 2102**
- Wisconsin Conference, 1809,**
2102
- Withdrawal:**
Bishop, 952
Deaconess, 982
Member of church, 123-24, 983
Minister, 380-82, 651 (38c), 981, 1030 (8)
See also Judicial administration; Location of minister
- Withholding from salary, 774**
(3), 1646 (1), 1656 (4a), 1658 (3b)
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, 282 (4), 1178-79, 1240-58, 2118**
Administration of a Mission, 1206, 1246
Adults, societies for, 1241
Assembly, 1251
Authorization, 1241
By-law, 1241
Children, 1241-42, 1249 (3)
Commission on Deaconess Work, 1247 (5), 1252, 2119.
For details see Commission on Deaconess Work
Committee on Finance and Estimates, 1249 (1)
Committee on Missionary Personnel, 1249 (1). *See also* Joint Commission on Missionary Personnel
Committee on Permanent Funds and Investments, 1249 (1)
Composition of, 1172 (4), 1178 (2), 1240 (3), 2118
Conference society, 1241, 1256.
For details see Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service
Co-operation with other agencies, 1247 (3), 1360, 1547, 1567 (1)
Deaconess work, 1241, 1247 (5), 1252-54. *For details see* Deaconess
Departments, 1244-48. *For details see* Department of Christian Social Relations; Department of Work in Foreign Fields; Department of Work in Home Fields
District society, 1241, 1257. *For details see* District Woman's Society of Christian Service
Elections, 1241, 1243

- Woman's Division of Christian Service, cont'd:**
Executive committee, 1249 (1)
Executive secretaries, 1179, 1243, 1244 (4), 1245 (1), 1247 (1), 1248 (3), 1280, 2118
Family life, cultivation of, 1242, 1417 (2)
Field Committee, 1202-4, 1246
Fields of labor recommended, 1241
Funds, 1183-85, 1250
Incorporation, 1240 (1)
Interdivision Committee on Foreign Work, 1199 (2), 1245 (2)
Interdivision Committee on Work in Home Fields, 1239, 1247 (2)
Joint Committee on Missionary Personnel, 1189-90, 1241, 1252 (1, 3, 4a, 12), 1254 (4b), 2115
Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1268, 1276 (2), 2120. *See also* Joint Section of Education and Cultivation
Jurisdiction society, 1241, 1255.
For details see Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service
Literature Headquarters, 2118
Local-church society, 281-32, 1241. *For details see* Woman's Society of Christian Service, local-church
Meetings, 1240 (3)
Methodist Woman, The, 753 (3), 2118
Methodist Youth Fund, 1285 (2), 1413 (2)
Missionaries, 1189-92, 1202, 1205-7, 1241, 1246. *See also* Missionary
Nominations by, 1175, 1176 (6), 1179 (1), 1180 (2), 1241, 1243
Organization, 1240, 1243-44, 2118
Powers and duties, 1241-51
President, 1243, 2118
Purpose, 1242
Recording secretary, 1243, 2118
Relation to Board of Missions and other divisions, 1175, 1178-79, 1199, 1202-4, 1240, 1291-92, 1300
Removal of officers, 1241
Representatives on other agen-
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, cont'd:**
cies, 750 (2), 758 (1), 1230 (1), 1239, 1252 (3), 1255 (3), 1283, 1286, 1289, 1416, 1417 (2), 1595 (1)
Secretarial council, 1280
Section of Education and Cultivation, 1249 (1). *See also* Joint Section of Education and Cultivation: Woman's Section
Treasurer, 1243, 1250, 1269, 1280, 1413 (2)
Vacancies filled by, 1241, 1243
Vice-president, 1243, 1244 (3), 2118
Week of Dedication, 760 (2). *See also* Week of Dedication
World Federation of Methodist Women, 568, 1249 (1), 2032
Youth, 1240 (3), 1241, 1242, 1249 (3)
- Woman's Society of Christian Service, local-church, 281-82**
Amendments to constitution, 282 (7)
Constitution, 282
Co-operation with other organizations, 222 (2), 244 (6), 257 (2, 5)
Elections, 282 (5)
Finances, 282 (2-3)
Meetings, 282 (6)
Membership, 282 (3)
Officers, 282 (5)
Pastor, 282 (5), 352 (7, 22i)
President, 209, 244 (8), 282 (5), 687
Promotion, 362 (15d), 689 (4), 1276 (2)
Purpose, 282 (2)
Recording secretary, 282 (5)
Representatives elected by, 145 (9), 232
Secretary of children's work, 244 (7), 282 (5)
Secretary of Christian social relations, 276, 282 (5)
Secretary of missionary education, 256, 282 (5)
Secretary of spiritual life, 221 (1), 282 (5)
Secretary of youth work, 244 (7), 282 (5)
Wesleyan Service Guild, 282 (1)
See also Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service;

Woman's Society of Christian Service, local-church, cont'd:
 District Woman's Society of Christian Service; Jurisdiction Woman's Society of Christian Service; Woman's Division of Christian Service

Woman's Work, Committee on (Central Conference), 568-69

Women:

Bible, 573
 Central Conference provisions, 562, 568-69, 573
 Clergy rights, 303, 562
 Committee on Woman's Work (Central Conference), 568-69
 Deaconesses, 1252-54. *For details see Deaconess*
 Membership in organizations and agencies:
 Advance Committee, 753, 2149
 Annual Conference, 623-24
 Auxiliaries, hospitals and homes, 1563
 Board of Evangelism, 1468, 1477-78, 1482, 2136
 Board of Missions, 1168, 1172, 1175, 1178-79, 2115
 Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1546, 2141
 Commission on Christian Social Relations (local church), 276
 Commission on Education (local church), 232
 Commission on Membership and Evangelism (local church), 221 (1)
 Commission on Missions (local church), 256
 Commission on Promotion and Cultivation, 750 (2)
 Committee on Christian Vocations (local church), 145 (9)
 Committee on Co-operation and Counsel, 1360
 Committee on Family Life (local church), 234
 Conference Board of Temperance, 1532
 Conference Commission on town and Country Work, 1231 (1)
 Co-ordinating Council, 1111, 2110

Women, cont'd:

Council on World Service and Finance, 1116, 2111
 District Conference, 687
 Division councils (local church), 244 (7-8)
 Farm and Home Committee, (local church), 145 (11)
 Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations, 1415, 2132
 Interboard Committee on Missionary Education, 1236, 2122
 Interboard Committee on Town and Country Work, 1230 (1), 2123
 Joint Committee on Christian Education in Foreign Fields, 1283, 2121
 Joint Committee on Temperance Education, 1416
 Joint Section of Education and Cultivation, 1268, 1274-77, 2120
 Jurisdictional Board of Temperance, 1529
 Official Board, 207 (3), 209
 Quarterly Conference, 138 (2), 153 (2), 209
 Secretarial council, 1280
 Ministerial status, 303, 562
 Missionary education, 1276 (2)
 World Federation of Methodist Women, 508, 1249 (1), 2032
See also Woman's Division of Christian Service; Woman's Society of Christian Service

Work in Foreign Fields. See Department of Work in Foreign Fields

Work in Home Fields. See Department of Work in Home Fields

Workers' Conference (local church), 231, 249

Workshops on worship, 1569 (2)

World Council of Churches, 778, 1597, 2156, *page* 278

World Federation of Methodist Women, 508, 1249 (1), 2032

World Methodist Council, 46 (1), 1591 (1b, 2a), 2154

World Missions, Division of, 1178-79, 1193-1207, 2116. *For details see* Division of World Missions

World Order and International Peace (resolution), 2024

World Order Sunday, 278 (7), 1543

World Outlook, 2120

World peace:

Board of, 1536-44. *For details see* Board of World Peace
 Committee on (local-church), 276, 278 (7), 1543
 Conference Committee on, 278 (7), 1542
 Jurisdictional Committee on, 278 (7), 1541
 Promotion of, 352 (19), 362 (15g), 432 (5)

World service, 732, 2100

Agencies, 737 (1-4, 6-11), 741-48, 750 (2), 781-84, 1373, 1378, 1539, 1549 (2), 1557, 1581 (5), 2018 (1)
 American Bible Society, 1598
 And conference benevolences, 142 (7), 147, 250 (1), 257 (5), 261, 651 (13), 732, 795, 804
 Apportionments, 749, 1314
 Budget, 732, 737 (4), 741-42, 748-49
 Church-school offerings, 250 (1), 1439, 1450
 Emergency changes in financial plan, 748
 Fund, 651, (12a), 732, 735, 737 (1, 4), 738, 741-49, 754, 781, 785, 804
 Leaflets, Fourth-Sunday, 754
 Legal counsel, 1120 (4)
 Local church, 142 (7), 147, 150 (1), 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5), 261, 268
 Overpayments, 804-5
 Promotion, 750-55
 Special gifts, 735, 738, 744-46, 805
 Sunday, 215 (3), 250 (1), 257 (5), 296 (1a)
 Treasurer, local-church, 268

World Service and Finance, Commission on, 791-812. *For details see* Conference Commission on World Service and Finance

World Service and Finance, Council on, 735-39, 1116-20, 2111. *For details see* Council on World Service and Finance

World-wide Communion Sunday, 296 (1e), 763

Worship, 671, 689, 1568-70
 Attendance, 97, 222 (6), 2029
 Authority to conduct, 304 (2), 302
 Centers in homes, 2021
 Church school, 241, 1396
 Commission on. *See* Commission on Worship, Church; Commission on Worship, General Forms, 1569 (3)
 Opening a church for, ritual, 1934
 Orders of, 1901-6
 Pastor's duty, 352 (1, 2, 9, 13)

Worship and the Arts, Department of (National Council of Churches), 1569 (12)

Worship for Church and Homes, The Book of, 1509 (4)

Wyoming Conference, 1734, 2102

Y

Yearbooks, 1120 (5)

Yenping Conference, 1861 (9), 1876, 2103

Young adults, 244 (1), 352 (20), 1397

Young Adult Fellowship, 209, 234

Youth, 244, 1396-98, 1403
 Conference director of youth work, 675, 1404 (2), 1406 (1), 1448, 1452
 Council (local-church), 138 (3), 153 (3), 209

INDEX

Youth, *cont'd*:

- Department, 1406 (1, 3), 1413 (2), 2130
- Department of Youth Publications, 1404 (2), 1406 (1, 3), 2134
- District director of youth work, 687, 1448
- Division, 145 (9), 235, 244, 246 (2), 352 (5, 7), 1403
- Fellowship. *See* Methodist Youth Fellowship
- Fund, Methodist, 1285 (2), 1413 (2)
- Homes for, 1551, 1554 (1)
- Jurisdictional program, 1436
- Life service. *See* Life service in church vocations
- Members of agencies:
 - Board of Education, 1326, 2126
 - Board of Evangelism, 1468, 2136
 - Board of Missions, 1172 (5-6), 2115
 - Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1546, 2141
 - Board of World Peace, 1536, 2140
 - Conference Board of Education, 1443
 - Conference Board of Temperance, 1532
 - Division of National Missions, 1210
 - Division of World Missions, 1195
 - Jurisdictional Board of Education, 1430
 - Jurisdictional Board of Social and Economic Relations, 1550 (1)

Youth, *cont'd*:

- Jurisdictional Board of Temperance, 1529
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1240 (3)
- Methodist Student Day, 250 (4), 206 (1d), 1356 (3)
- Methodist Youth Fellowship, 244 (4), 1403. *For details see* Methodist Youth Fellowship
- Missionary education, 1276 (2), 1287
- National Conference of Methodist Youth, 1172 (5), 1326, 1404-5, 1415 (2), 1468, 1529, 1536, 2131
- National Methodist Student Commission, 1326, 1404 (2), 1405, 1406 (2)
- National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission, 1172 (6), 1326, 1405, 1406 (1), 1468
- Pastor's responsibilities, 149 (1), 352 (5, 7, 20)
- Publications, editors, 2127, 2131, 2134
- Service projects, 1547
- Vocation. *See* Christian: Vocation; *also* Interboard Committee on Christian Vocations
- Woman's Division of Christian Service, 1241, 1242, 1249 (3)
- Work, 1402-6
- See also* Methodist Student Movement; Student
- Yugoslavia Mission, 1864 (11), 1875, 2103**